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ABSTRACT

Papers on bibliographic control presented at the 1986 International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) conference include: (1) "Bibliographic Interchange/Coordination in Southeast Asia (Huck Tee Lim, Malaysia); (2) "Project for 'Chinese National Bibliography' and Its Progress" (Huang Jungui, China); (3) "Subject Bibliography in the Twenty-first Century" (Guy Marco); (4) "Bibliographic Information Interchange in East Asia" (Hiroshi Tanabe, Japan); (5) "Development of Bibliography on Asian Countries in USSR" (N. P. Igumnova, USSR); (6) "Doctoral Dissertations on Asia--The Issue of Bibliographical Control and Access" (Frank Joseph Shulman, United States); and (7) "Bibliographical Developments in Malaysia with Special Reference to the National Library" (Donald E. K. Wijasuriya, Malaysia). (KM)

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Bibliographic Interchange/Coordination in Southeast Asia

by

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Universiti Sains Malaysia

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC INTERCHANGE/ COORDINATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

by

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INTRODUCTION

The subject of this paper has a vagueness and imprecision about it that is both the bane of the paper writer and a source of delight, since any reasonable interpretation would be correct! In this paper, I will only be covering in relatively general terms the following:

* Activities relating to the exchange of bibliographic information

* Efforts or programmes to coordinate bibliographical activities in Southeast Asia.

Furthermore, only regional level activities will be discussed largely because it will not be possible to do justice to the large number of national programmes in a short paper. Attention will be focussed on the activities of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) comprising the countries of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, since at the present moment Burma, Vietnam, Kampuchea and Laos are not actively involved in regional programmes.

TYPES OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC ACTIVITIES

For those who have been brought up on a diet of Esdaile, McKerrow or Van Hoesen, the term bibliography has a number of different meanings. In fact, as Sir James Murray has pointed out, there are at least four meanings to the term[1], viz.:

* the writing of books

* the systematic description and history of books, their authorship, printing, publication, editions, etc.

* a book containing such details

* a list of books by author, printer, country, subject, etc.

The evolution of the term has also meant the gradual devolution of the skills of the bibliographer from a scholarly activity to one that is largely inventory listing. It is this latter activity which we tend to equate with bibliographical compilations today. However, with the advent of the computer and its as-

sociated information technology, a new interpretation of bibliography and its derivations may be possible. Bibliographers are now documentalists or information scientists; they no longer compile bibliographies but analyse and repackage information. Bibliographies no longer deal with specific subjects or topics, but are sectoral or mission-oriented. The main purpose of bibliographic activity is not the scholarly study of the book, but the provision of information services. It is no longer an isolated activity, but a cooperative endeavour involving a large number of institutions and organisations.

However cynically we may view the new information technology and its jargon, it is important to remember that in this age of rapid changes and instant solutions, the scholarly bibliographer is a creature of the past, and in so far as Southeast Asia is concerned, has no place in the firmament of Southeast Asian librarianship.

In Southeast Asia, only two kinds of bibliographic activity are discernible, viz.:

* bibliographical listings of the classical inventory-type (sometimes sans scholarship, sans thought, sans everything).

* documentation level activities especially in the areas of science and technology

A great deal of attention is focussed on the second type of bibliographic activity, and a great deal of financial support is provided by external aid agencies in this area, even though the governments of many developing countries are still relatively unaware of the relevance and importance of STI in their development programmes.

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC COORDINATION

Bibliographic interchange and coordination activities are based on the premise that resource sharing is good, and that no single institution (especially in the developing countries) has the capability of providing the kind of information that governments and researchers would require. In Southeast Asia, a number of different kinds of institutions and structures exist to promote and coordinate activities of this kind. They may be categorised as follows:

* Library-based institutions

* Documentation centres

* Specialised information centres

* Information networks

* Regional associations and regional centres

It is important to note that the above categories are not mutually exclusive and that there is some overlap. For instance, a library may also serve as a specialised information centre, and could very well also serve as the focal point in a network or be the coordinator of the network. In the same way, a specialised information centre could be part of a network and also a component of a regional centre.

LIBRARY-BASED INSTITUTIONS

The principal types of libraries which are actively involved in bibliographic coordination and interchange activities are university, special and national libraries and not the public libraries. This is because public libraries tend to be the cinderella of most library systems in the developing countries of Southeast Asia, and consequently have less resources to participate in cooperative projects of any kind. Several factors have forced libraries into pursuing more actively documentation-type activities. These include:

* The information explosion, which has made the sharing of resources a vital necessity.

* Personal initiatives of individual library managers that have led to a broadening of the functions of the libraries concerned.

* Existence of regional and international networks in which such libraries have been designated as the national focal points. For example, the Nanyang Technological Institute in Singapore, and the University of Agriculture Library in Malaysia have been designated the national focal points for AGRIS inputs of their respective countries.

NATIONAL DOCUMENTATION CENTRES

The main reason for the dominance of libraries in information oriented activities is the lack of other types of information facilities in the region. But this is rapidly changing, and other types of organisations have come into being to strongly challenge the role of libraries in the provision of bibliographic and information services. A prime example is the national documentation centre whose main function is the provision of documentation activities in the fields of science and technology. Many of these documentation centres were established with funding initially provided by Unesco. In Southeast Asia, documentation centres exist in Indonesia (PDIN), Thailand (TNDC), Philippines (NSIC), and Vietnam (ICIST). In Malaysia and Singapore, documentation activities are undertaken by their respective national libraries.

National documentation centres, however, tend to be handicapped. They not only lack resources, but they are also given the formidable task of trying to cover a comprehensive

range of information services covering all the fields of science and technology. Because of limited resources, they end up by not doing any of these effectively. They frequently try to get round this problem by some means of resource sharing and by serving as coordinating centres.

SPECIALISED INFORMATION CENTRES

Multidisciplinary libraries and documentation centres are usually unable to cover in sufficient depth some areas of high priority for development. As a consequence, specialised information centres (or SICs) have been established to deal with a very specialised area of concern. Most of these SICs have been established with funding from external agencies and since they are regional in nature are expected to serve the needs of the region. In a large number of instances, the computer is used to retrieve the information input into the system with the collaboration of participating institutions. SICs are actively involved in information analysis, repackaging and dissemination of information in their fields. They are frequently part of a formal or informal regional network. Examples of SICs:

* Environmental Sanitation Information Centre, Thailand
* Water Buffalo Information Centre, Thailand
* International Rice Research Institute, Philippines
* Rattan Information Centre, Malaysia
* Renewal Energy Resources Information Centre, Thailand
* International Centre for Living Aquatic Resources Management, Philippines
* ESCAP Population Clearing House, Thailand
* Coal Information Centre, Indonesia
* International Ferrocement Information Centre, Thailand
* Asian Mass Communication Information Centre, Singapore
* Asian Geotechnical Information Centre, Thailand
* Southeast Asian Fisheries Information Centre, Thailand

Common problems faced by SICs include a lack of financial resources, qualified manpower, and equipment. In addition, since they rely quite a lot on external aid to continue operating, the termination of external financial assistance often leads to the demise or collapse of such institutions.

NETWORKS

As pointed out above, many of the above institutions are also involved in networking activities. In general, two kinds of networks exist - networks of similar types of institutions (such as libraries), and subject oriented networks. Although there have been many proposals to establish regional library networks, only one formal library network exists viz. the NLDC-SEA Consortium, comprising the national libraries of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand and the Indonesian National Documentation Centre. The Consortium was established with the assistance of IDRC and its principal objectives are to facilitate the use of library materials emanating from the countries of the Consortium through interlibrary lending and assistance in the procurement of documents; to initiate action to reduce barriers to the free flow of library materials within the region, and to promote bibliographic interchange and coordination. A major project of the Consortium was the SEAPRINT Project (see Appendix A(1)).

Other regional networks which are mainly subject oriented include the following:

* The AGRIS network coordinated regionally by the Agricultural Information Bank for Asia (AIBA) located at SEARCA in the Philippines, with national focal points in each of the participating countries. (See Appendix A(2)).

* The ISDS-SEA network coordinated by the National Library of Thailand, with national centres located in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Singapore. (See Appendix A(3)).

* CRRERIS (Commonwealth Regional Renewal Energy Resources Information System) coordinated by CSIRO in Australia, with linking points in various Commonwealth countries including Malaysia and Singapore.

* TECHNONET-ASIA coordinated from Singapore, with focal centres in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and elsewhere. The prime objective of this network is the provision of technical information and industrial extension services to small industries.

* SEAMIC (Southeast Asian Medical Information Centre) with the coordination centre in Japan, and national centres located in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

* APINMAP (Asian and Pacific Information Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants) - a proposed network to be established with funding from Unesco. (See Appendix A(4)).

Although many of the networks differ in their styles of administration, a common method of operation is for the coordinating centre to receive bibliographic data in an agreed format from the participating countries, and then to process the data using the computer. The transmission of data is usually in the form of input sheets but occasionally magnetic media are used. The products are usually in printed form because of the lack of corresponding computing facilities in the participating institutions. SDI services based on profiles created by participants may also be given by some coordinating centres.

ASSOCIATIONS AND REGIONAL CENTRES

A number of professional associations and groupings exist which also play an important role in bibliographic coordination and interchange activities. These include CONSAL (Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians), FID-CAO (Commission for Asia and Oceania, International Federation for Documentation), SARBICA (Southeast Asian Regional Branch, International Council of Archives), and COSTED (Committee on Science and Technology in Developing Countries, International Council of Scientific Unions). The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) has also established a number of regional centres which are increasingly involved in the provision of information in their specialised fields. These regional centres include:

* BIOTROP (Centre for Tropical Biology), Indonesia
* RECSAM (Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics), Malaysia
* RELC (Regional Language Centre), Singapore
* SEARCA (Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture), Philippines
* TROPMED (Centre for Tropical Medicine), Thailand

In Appendix A(5), some details of the CONSAL sponsored *Masterlist of Southeast Asian Microforms* are provided. This is one of the few bibliographical projects which still rely on manual inputs.

PROBLEMS

It is indeed quite surprising that there are so many regional projects in existence, considering the roadblocks to cooperation that exist. It is difficult enough to coordinate projects at the national level, even when national interests dictate the need for such programmes. Beyond the national boundaries, the problems and obstacles are really formidable. Yet Southeast Asian librarians, information scientists and their Governments continue to batter at the gate in an effort to break down the barriers to cooperation. The obstacles have been adumbrated, elaborated and amplified at innumerable conferences, seminars and workshops, and are as much due to socio-economic,

human and political factors, as they are to technical and resource issues. There is no need to go into all these factors and issues since they are well known. However, I would like to highlight some of the problems that have arisen because of the manner in which bibliographic coordination has been implemented.

The main structure used in carrying out bibliographic coordination in the region is the network. Usually, the coordinating centre is located in an institution which has some recognised strengths in the field concerned. Sometimes, a completely new institution is established and when this occurs, political considerations usually take precedence over other factors when deciding on the location of the institution concerned. Two other points are worth noting: firstly, that computers are usually used to process the data, and secondly, that the primary focus is in a specialised area of science and technology which has been identified as being of importance to the region.

These characteristics give rise to certain types of problems, which may be summarised as follows:

* *Standards*. Since the computer is used to process the data, a suitable standard for the exchange of data has to be adopted. This is not easy when some of the participants of the network already have operational systems using the computer. A good example of this was the SEAPRINT project, where the adoption of a standard proved to be quite difficult because some of the participants had already developed their own local MARC formats. As a result the SEAMARC format that was ultimately adopted as the exchange format had to make provisions for local idiosyncracies as well as cater to the lowest common denominator. Where the institutions concerned had not yet used the computer, it was fairly easy to agree on a common format. The most popular format in the region is MARC and its local variations. Equally popular are the AGRIS, UNISIST, and the DEVSIS formats.

* *Transborder data flow*. Problems relating to the transborder flow of data have to be solved. At the present time, because many of the projects are still relatively new, the legal and political issues have yet to exercise the minds of the participants. Information is still exchanged freely and charges are kept to a minimum. But some countries, e.g. Malaysia, are beginning to realise that the information which they provide may have an economic value, and are beginning to examine the legal aspects of the cross-border flow of information.

* *Languages*. While the common language of communication in the region is English, the publications of the regional participants cover a wide spectrum of languages, including English, Thai, Indonesian, Malay,

Chinese and Tamil. This fact not only makes coordination difficult, but also makes computer processing difficult, especially where non-roman scripts are concerned. Except for the SEAPRINT project where Thai script was processed simultaneously with roman script, most of the current projects have got round the problem by using transliteration.

* *Communications.* Communications play a vital role in any networking project. Unfortunately, however, telecommunications and postal facilities are still not very good even among the ASEAN countries. Indeed, it is still easier to get connected by telephone to the United Kingdom and the USA than to another ASEAN country. The situation, however, is changing rapidly, and there have been tremendous improvements in the telecommunication facilities of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Even the postal services have improved considerably both in terms of the delivery time and the safe delivery of mail.

* *Financial and other resources.* Most of the projects have been established with funding from aid agencies, such as Unesco or IDRC. A number of problems are usually encountered as a result. This is because the projects concerned are usually suggested by the aid agencies, and they may not be truly reflective of the needs of the region. It is frequently the case that because funds are made available the Governments or institutions of the region may be tempted to agree to participate in a project without considering the long term implications of such a commitment. Frequently, when funding ceases, the lack of commitment on the part of the regional participants becomes apparent when they do not continue funding the project with their own resources. Furthermore, the participating institutions themselves usually lack the resources to contribute meaningfully to the project if funding is only provided for the coordinating centre. The problem is compounded by the wide disparity in the relative strengths and resources of the participating institutions, and many problems are caused by the weak links in the network.

Considering the problems and obstacles in the way of successful cooperation, it is still something of a miracle that so many projects continue to be implemented in the region. The spirit of goodwill permeates many ASEAN projects and it is perhaps this extraordinary willingness to cooperate for mutual benefit that is at the root of most of the successful projects.

APPENDIX A

BIBLIOGRAPHIC INTERCHANGE/COORDINATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: SOME EXAMPLES

1. SEAPRINT PILOT PROJECT

The project was sponsored by the NLDC-SEA Consortium and had as its principal objective the production of a centralised computerised regional listing of selected national imprints. The main activities of the project, which was located at the Universiti Sains Malaysia Library, were the coordination and processing of inputs from the national libraries of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, and the production of the pilot issue of the SEAPRINT bibliography. Some of the inputs were in the form of input sheets, while others were in machine-readable form. A number of problems were solved during the pilot phase, viz:

* Format incompatibility.
* Multiscript processing.
* Minimum data set.
* Format of the regional bibliography.
* Selection of the records to be included in the bibliography.
* Implementation problems, e.g. training of participants, writing the conversion programs, communications difficulties, lack of experienced computer personnel.

SEAPRINT was one of the most difficult and possibly sophisticated bibliographic projects that had ever been implemented in the ASEAN region, and its success was in no small measure due to the prevailing spirit of cooperation among the national libraries.[2]

2. AGRIS

The AGRIS network in Southeast Asia is coordinated by AIBA (Agricultural Information Bank for Asia) which is located at SEARCA in Los Banos, Philippines. In Southeast Asia, government designated AGRIS national centres exist in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, and each of these are responsible for the bibliographic control of their national agricultural literature and research projects. The national centres send their bibliographic data in an agreed format to AIBA for processing, and the latter in turn sends the processed data to the AGRIS Processing Unit in Vienna, Austria, where they are merged with data from other parts of the world. The principal output of this activity is AGRIASIA, a current bibliography of agricultural literature related to the Asian region.[3]

3. ISDS-SEA

The International Serials Data System - Southeast Asia operates in a similar way as the AGRIS network in that a regional centre is responsible for coordinating and collecting bibliographic data from the various national centres. The specific objective is also to coordinate regional inputs into the international ISDS database. Currently, the National Library of Thailand is the coordinating centre, and the national centres are mainly the national libraries in the region with the exception of Indonesia (where the Indonesian Scientific Documentation Centre is responsible for the Indonesian input). In addition to building up a database of Southeast Asian serials, the ISDS-SEA regional centre is currently developing a union list of serials in Southeast Asia.[4]

4. APINMAP

The Asian and Pacific Information Network on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants is to be established with Unesco funding. The feasibility study was carried out in 1985, and was accepted by a Steering COmmittee at a meeting held in Bangkok in September, 1985. The primary objective of APINMAP is the creation of a system which can provide information to researchers in the field. To achieve this, the creation of a number of databases is envisaged, and these databases include the following:

* Bibliographic and research publications.
* Register of research institutions, researchers, research projects and research equipment.
* Compilation of scientific data resulting from the research.

These databases will be created through national inputs to three proposed regional centres (located in India, Philippines and Hong Kong). To ensure comprehensive coverage, the three regional centres will share data with one another and also link up with other related systems such as SCAMAP (South and Central Asia Medicinal and Aromatic Plants), CNPSA (Regional Network for the Chemistry of Natural Products in Southeast Asia), and NCBINP (Network for the Chemistry of Biologically Important Natural Products).[5]

5. MASTER LIST OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN MICROFORMS

This is a project sponsored by CONSAL (Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians) and is essentially a union list of microforms on Southeast Asian subjects. The first volume, which has been published contains about 14,000 entries. The project is a continuing one and is currently being coordinated by the National Library of Singapore, which receives cards of the holdings of participants, and then interfiles them into a union catalogue.[6]

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Project for 'Chinese National Bibliography' and its Progress

by

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Director

Acquisition and Cataloguing Department for Chinese Books

National Library of China

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Project for "Chinese National Bibliography" and Its Progress

"Chinese National Bibliography" is scheduled to appear in 1987. It will embody a monthly bulletin and a cumulative annual, each to comprise the body of bibliography and an index. The body of bibliography will reflect works in Chinese as well as works in languages other than the Chinese, with each language group having the type of publication indicated, while all items are to be arranged in accordance with "Chinese Library Classification Rules for Books." The index will have three components, i.e., subject, title and author. By way of compilation and publishing, this bibliography will adopt batch processing using the M-150H computer system in the recent years to come, and expect to shift to on-line system after 1990, thus to gradually build up a nation-wide data base for Chinese bibliographies, to produce Chinese MARC tape and soft discs, and to couple the compiling and publishing of unified catalogue cards with separately issued bookforms in quantity needed of the various types of bibliographies. Over and all, this bibliography will seek to present well condensed yet extensive contents with up-to-standard compilation, thus to establish itself among the bibliographic controlling peers of the world.

I.

The compilation of "Chinese National Bibliography" marks a new period of China's bibliographical service, while continuing the country's good traditions along the line of bibliography. Whileas this work inherits and enhances China's traditional practice of bibliographical compilation, it also draws on the modern bibliographic methods employed in foreign countries. It is on the basis of these

two traits that the project is prepared for the purpose to achieve an effective means to bring about the interflow between China and foreign countries of Bibliographical information as well as the realization internationally of document resources sharing.

Bibliographical compilation in China is known to be an age-old activity which yeilded brilliant results and a rich heritage. This country's contemporary bibliography of various types, however, cannot be appraised as competent to the function of national bibliographies. Up to date, not a standardized national bibliography is yet available.

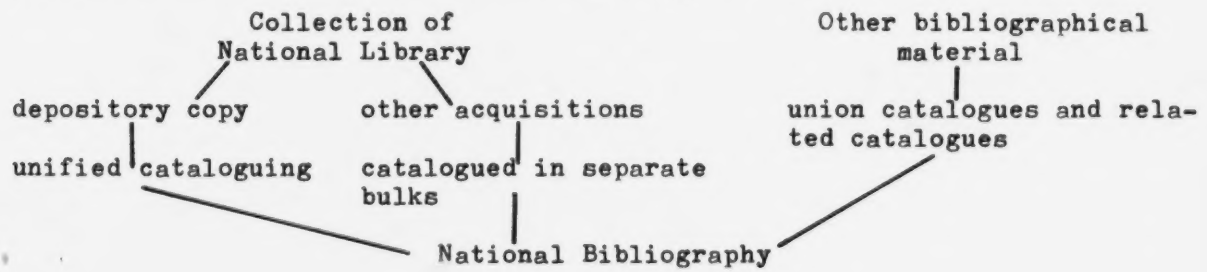
The "Chinese National Bibliography" has taken note to draw on the experience accumulated in compiling national bibliographies home and abroad, and has also paid special attention to the fast progress of national bibliographies in the developing countries after the 1977 International Conference on National Bibliographies sponsored jointly by UNESCO and IFLA. The "Chinese National Bibliography" thus decided, in accordance with its own conditions, to closely unite the compilation of national bibliography with the country's work of depository copy of new publications and with the work of national unified cataloguing. The National Bibliographic Center deems such combination its outstanding attainment. The chief tasks of the Center are as follows:

1. Record comprehensively China's publications in order to reflect the true state of development of documents in given historical periods;
2. Publish and distribute the unified catalogue cards which, while observing the rules of ISBD and China's various bibliographical rules and standards, will provide: a unified title,

a standard name of author, descriptors from the "Chinese Thesaurus", as well as three different class numbers including that of the "Chinese Library Classification Rules for Books", in an effort to promote the standardization of cataloguing of the country;

3. Publish and distribute regularly the cumulative annual and monthly bulletin of "Chinese National Bibliography" in order to report in time the country's publications;
4. Produce machine-readable national bibliography and build up a national data base for Chinese documents, so as to ultimately turn the National Library of China into the nation's center for automative bibliography and for bibliographical network.

The National Library of China being the organiser and administrator of "Chinese National Bibliography" has set up within its precinct the "Chinese National Bibliography" Compilation Section, the China Center of Serial Publications, the National Union Catalogue Section, and for giving overall support to these sections, a Division for Automotive Development. These can get into contact with such international organizations as the UBC, ISDS and some others, and can cooperate with other related organizations in China. The "Chinese National Bibliography" Compilation Section itself undertakes the actual collection and procession of Bibliographical data. Its planned working procedure is shown in the following diagram:



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II.

The "Chinese National Bibliography" being the basis for bibliographical control, its relation with the acquiring and using of Chinese publications is mutually supplementary, and at the same time mutually restraining. Such is also the case with UBC and UAP appeared since ninteen seventies, which are mentioned together and exist to mutual benefit. The former might well be regarded as the means and the latter the target. The prerequisite to the target of resources sharing must necessarily be information interflow, as it reveals what is in possession and what is wanting. The source of bibliographical information however is to be traced to publication itself. Therefore, the improvement of the depository system of sample copies and the comprehensive acquisition of domestic publications constitute the prerequisite for "Chinese National Bibliography" compilation.

Ever since the founding of the People's Republic of China, the government has attached great importance to the statistics and registration of works published. As from 1951 the promulgation and implementation of various rules and regulations regarding the system of depositing sample copies of publications have been subjected to constant improvement. The Ministry of Culture in its "Provisional Detailed Regulations Protecting the Copyright of Books and Periodicals" promulgated in 1985 specified the task for submitting sample copies of publications as follows:"Within 30 days of publication of books and periodicals sample copies should in accordance with government regulations be submitted by the publishing party to the National Publishing Administration of China under the Ministry of Culture,

to the National Library of China and to the Depository Library of Copyright Publications; the publishing units below national or central level should in addition submit sample copies to their local administrative office in charge of publication, and to designated local libraries, either provincial, autonomous regional, or municipal, as corresponding to the locality of the publishing units. In case sample copies have not been submitted within given time, and not even upon notification of this matter, a criticism will be circulated by the National Publishing Administration of China under the Ministry of Culture, or by administrative unit of publication of provincial level; while in serious cases, a fine will be levied in value five to ten times the price of the evaded sample books or periodical issues." It is estimated that the system of depositing sample copies of Chinese publications, through gradual improvement in due course, will finally become a standing practice sanctioned by law, and will serve as a guarantee to the work of collecting sample copies for the National Library.

Actual practice has shown that insomuch as China's publishers are state-owned, they entertain the same objectives as the libraries themselves, i.e., the preserving and promoting of the nation's cultural heritage, and putting of publications into full utilization, so they generally place on the agenda of their routine work the handing-in of sample copies. Take for instance the year 1983, statistics of publications revealed a total of 20,156 titles of new books (not including that of Taiwan Province, Area of Hong Kong and Area of Macao, nor counting reprints) of which 16,555 titles are qualified Chinese books for inclusion in the National Library. In the same year, titles processed by way of unified cataloguing

(middle and primary school textbooks and some others are not subjected to unified cataloguing) amounted to 15,260 which constitutes more than 92% of the total intake of the National Library of that year, as well as 75.7% of the whole lot of new books. According to incomplete statistics, the number of formally published books that failed to be submitted rated under 10%. In 1985 the acquisition in the National Library of works published in China are composed of the following:

Publications in Chinese:

over 30,000 titles of books;
10,701 titles of periodicals (including some not published through ordinary or official channels);
1,084 newspapers titles (not including those issued in county or below county level);

Publications in languages of minority nationalities:

1,443 books;
103 periodicals;
55 newspapers;

Publications in foreign languages:

over 1,000 titles

For all the above-mentioned categories the sample copies submitted rated over 90%. As a matter of fact, this number does not represent the whole lot of Chinese publications, there are generally three kinds of publications that are not to be included in the National Library: 1, propaganda loose leaves, very thin pamphlets, picture-story books, newspapers of county and below county level, etc., which the National Library is not ready to acquire into its holdings; 2, publications neither prepared nor leased through the usual channel,which is a category the National Library is not yet comprehensively collecting; 3, certain publications that failed to be handed in or are neglected in pruchase.

Recently, the National Library of China has intensified its acquisition efforts for comprehensive acquisition and comprehensive cataloguing, so as to bring the "Chinese National Bibliography" closer to the actual status of publication and distribution. In this respect, the National Library undertook three measures:

1, While recerving sample copies according to government regulations, extra sample copies are at the same time to be purchased for the aim of obtaining more quickly the sample copies, shortening the time cycle for cataloguing, and also solving the problem of unwillingness on part of certain publishers in submitting graitis expensive books.

2, Besides receiving sample copies of serial publications, for avoiding neglects, subscriptions are also placed direct with the publishers or with the Post Office, the nation's general distributor of serial publications, for the establishment of a national center of serial publications.

3, Make over-all investigation into the circumstances of the publication and distribution of domestic informal publications, in order to facilitate the collection of such through selection and by steps, and to afford a reflection of them in the national bibliography.

In view of two problems existing in the depository copy system, it is planned that the inclusion of "Chinese National Bibliography" is to be based on the collection of the National Library. The first problem lies in certain limitations, for instance, besides the non-printed documents which are not yet to be submitted to the National Library, there is still the not formally published group which does not fall within the realm of this system. The second problem is the

need to choose from the whole load of sample copies, since it is made up of current issues of all kinds of serials published by whatever publishing units, a portion of which would happen to be low in information value, or just ephemeral, and discrimination is indispensable. The only effective cure seem to rely on supplementary acquisition and on bibliographical control of the National Library. That is to say, with regard to sample copies, the "Chinese National Bibliography" is neither all-inclusive nor unsupplemented. The procedure is to select first and then to supplement according to needs. In case the needed items are no longer available, the "Chinese National Bibliography" will quote from other bibliographical sources. The purpose in so doing is twofold, one is to reflect an overall picture of Chinese publication in a given period of history, while the other is to combine with the bibliographical control which is based on secondary source service, thus offering direct service to readers. So it has both the quality of statistical registration and the function of information retrieval.

Following are the scope and quantity of publications preliminarily estimated to be included in "Chinese National Bibliography":

type of publications	number of titles		remarks
	1987 trial issue	post 1987	
Chinese books	22,000	over 22,000	
periodicals	3,000	over 10,000	textbooks for middle and below middle shool as well as children's readers not included in "book".
newspapers	600	over 1,000	
maps	300	over 300	
informal publications	over 500	over 1,000	
books in minority nationality languages	1,400	over 1,500	

books in foreign languages	over 1,000	over 1,200	
doctoral dissertations	temporarily not listed	over 500	
patents	temporarily not listed		
non-book materials	temporarily not listed		
Total	28,800	over 36,300	

A sum-up of the above would show that the scope of inclusion of "Chinese National Bibliography" should be able to represent " a reliable and comprehensive record of the publications of a country." In sense of reliability, all publications it records will have to be registered at designated administrative office. In China, the term "informal publication" is not necessarily identical in concept as "publications non-registered for distribution". The former differs from the latter in that it has undergone legal formalities, and can state the status of its author, the background of publishing and date of printing, etc., it is classified as "informal" only because it might not be issued by a professional publishing house, or even though issued by professional publishing house, yet due to reasons that its ideas might not be so mature, or the intended readers are too few, it is not yet formally distributed. Whereas "publications non-registered for distribution" are those of inferior contents, and not approved by designated administrative office for distribution, or are publications to be circulated among limited readers, not for open distribution. With regard to "comprehensiveness" the "Chinese National Bibliography" will not only give an over-all picture of Chinese publications through the variety of types and the

quantity of its inclusion, but it also will give a full picture of a single title of publication through detailed descriptive entries given to it. An explanation needs to be inserted here about the term "government publications". In view of the fact that most Chineselibraries do not treat government publications as a special collection either in acquisition or in processing, the "Chinese National Bibliography" does not use the term "government publications", it has, however, by no means excluded government publications which are in fact included either as books, serial publications, or informal publications. Another aspect of the "comprehensiveness" of "Chinese National Bibliography" is shown in the synthetic principle of "nation-language" it has set for itself. Thus, besides inclusion of domestically published works of all languages and all types of documents as well as works on all kinds of carriers, it also has plan to include works in Chinese which are published in foreign lands. This plan is made out of the consideration that publications themselves always have direct bearings on civilization and language. As China has a long standing history, there existed over the vast world quite a number of research subjects concerning China (such as Chinese paleography Dunhuang study, etc.), similar works of research in Chinese language, like other works in Chinese language, are important material reflecting the development of Chinese civilization. (There are of course works published in languages other than Chinese which are not yet presently under our plan). Secondly, the Chinese race is vastly populated, many a country have Chinese residents, whether of Chinese nationality or not, who somehow keep the habit of using the Chinese language, in writing, in publishing

books, periodicals and newspapers, the resulted intellectual product are not without trace of the characteristics of their own nationlity, and have much to do with Chinese cultural tradition. It is logical for the "Chinese National Bibliography" to include works in Chinese published on foreign lands, for the aim of developing Chinese national culture.

III.

"Chinese National Bibliography" gets its bibliographical data mainly from the unified catalogues and other bibliographical materials of the National Library.

The work of unified catalogue began in 1985, it was once nearly suspended and was taken up by the National Library. The Unified Catalogue of Chinese Publications has now over 5,000 subscribers, with an average issuance of more than 16,000 titles annually, giving an output totalling over 20,000,000 cards. The large and medium sized libraries accepted almost 100% these readily made cards, so 80% of their holdings made direct use of these cards carrying unified bibliographical entries. Beginning 1984, in an effort to increase the value of its bibliographical information, the unified catalogue cards adopted ISBD, and as from 1985, besides adopting the class number of three major works of classification, i.e., "Chinese Library Classification Rules for Books", the "Chinese Library Classification Rules for Books (simplified edition)" and "Chinese Academy of Sciences Library Classification Rules for Books", it concurrently adopted also "Chinese Thesaurus" to give descriptors (averaging 3 descriptors for each entry). Up to date,

20,000 books have been supplied with descriptors.

Meanwhile, as the "Chinese National Bibliography" Compliing Section brings into full practice the ISBD and relevent national standards of the People's Republic of China, it further undertakes to compile a "Name Authority File" of names of Chinese individual authors, Chinese translation of names of foreign authors, names of collective authors and unified book titles. The aim is to unify the access points of National Bibliography and headings of other indexing or retrieval catalogues. Or, in other words, the aim is to bring about the standardization of different terms, so as to uplift the efficiency and accuracy in retrieval by computer processing system of Chinese characters. The Name Authority File would make its choice according to frequency of application, usage accepted, and scope of popularity, and then try to give the authorized form. The File would comprise the following: different names of Chinese authors (original name, adopted name, courtesy name, allonym, etc.), the differently translated names of foreign aothors (diversified transliteration, original name, Chinese name, allonym, etc.). The compilation of "Name Authority File" will ensure easy retrieval through four channels of each entry: classification, subject, book title and author. As to the entry of names of the different countries of the world, reference will be also sought from "Codes for the Representation of Names of Countries" jointly compiled by Committee of UBC and International Standard Organization ISO/TC46. For names of China's different history periods (names of dynasties), the traditional names will be preserved.

Presently, foreign language books published in China are already being processed in conformity to AACRII for unified catalogu-

ing, so their entries would be intertransmittable with that of foreign language books published outside U.S.A. and processed by the United States LCMARC. By thus doing, we hope to uplift the efficiency in cataloguing to satisfy readers' need for faster access to resources. We trust, a national bibliography of China based on unified catalogue data will radically eliminate the defects in general catalogues of the past when each worked on its own, the defects such as diversification in styles of making entries, incompletness in content of entries, and the inconsistency in dealing with the degree of detailedness or brevity of entries. The improved national bibliography can enhance the interflow of bibliographical information internationally and the joining of "Chinese National Bibliography" itself as a component part into UBC.

The other bibliographical materials of the National Library fall into three groups:

1, Lists or catalogues of Chinese publications which are included in the collection of National Library but are not processed through unified cataloguing. These are in fact lists or catalogues reflecting domestic informal publications and some others. On the nation-wide scale, as these publications are issued in very small print runs, and enjoy similar acquisition by different libraries, there seems no need for unified cataloguing. However, they do belong to the basic data for national bibliography, since they are processed in the same manner as unified cataloguing.

2, Lists or catalogues of publications reflecting those holdings of the National Library which are in languages other than Chinese, or belong to other types aside from Chinese books. Such catalo-

gues or lists obtain their data for China published foreign language books readily from the unified catalogue. For the lists of books in 15 minority nationalities languages, which are processed according to ISBD, and have annotation of Chinese characters for original text, as it is yet difficult to give descriptive entries in words of minority languages, due to troubles like typesetting, printing, etc., Chinese characters are used instead for the time being. Upon approval of the State Council, a China Center of Serial Publications has now been established in the National Library of China, which is to represent China in ISDS. In conformity with the requirements of ISDS, all Chinese serial publications will have their opening issues, the first issues after change of title, and the ceasing issues to be duly entered into the "Chinese National Bibliography". Publications aside from serial ones will also be processed according to ISBD for "Chinese National Bibliography".

3, Lists of publications not in the holding of the National Library. This category comprises of two groups, firstly, lists of the group not under schedule for acquisition of the National Library, such as patents; and secondly, the lists of lackings caused by neglects. The first group is not large in quantity at present, but will gradually be registered in the national bibliography following the entries of the National Bureau of Standards. The second group is to be obtained from regional and national union catalogues, or from other compatible booklists.

Another problem for the data scheme of the "Chinese National Bibliography" is its relation with CIP. A scheme for CIP is now under deliberation in China. Once realized, its brief data will be reflected in the "Chinese National Bibliography" monthly bulletin.

It will without doubt be an important measure for making advance bibliographical information available to libraries and to facilitate their planned acquisition.

The entries of "Chinese National Bibliography" will mainly adopt the detailed gradation (the 3rd gradation), or full coverage of entries. Since China has already joined the ISBN Center and is assigned "7" as its initial code number for Chinese system of ISBN, in the forthcoming "Chinese National Bibliography" the assigned code number will appear within "standard document number and other relevent registrated items", for example, ISBN7-144-00326-X. Similarly, China being an ISDS member, the "Chinese National Bibliography" will also carry the ISSN code number. Presently, the International Center of ISDS has also alloted code numbers to some of the Chinese serial publications. The "Chinese National Bibliography" however, intends to keeps its descriptive items by employing them with discrimination, thus to continue and to enhance the traditional practice of Chinese bibliographies in giving due emphasis to revealing the contents of a publication. At the same time, out of the motive of facilitating information retrieval and of offering direct document service, all entries, with the exception of descriptive entries for decuments, will be given in addition, the bibliographical codes such as: initials of China (CN), year of publishing, serial numbers, and, as far as possible, the call number of the National Library of China.

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Subject Bibliography in the Twenty-First century

by

Guy Marco

Global Research Services

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SUBJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY Guy A. Marco

In my office there is a microcomputer which will give me access by subject to 100 million citations in various commercial data bases like DIALOG, BRS, and MEDLINE. I am also able to consult the file of 10 million books in the OCLC online catalog, a million of them by subject. And with the SCORPIO online catalog in the Library of Congress I am able to see what books have been processed by LC since 1968, and to have printed out for me a list of those books on any subject. The emergence of such splendid keys to information, over the past fifteen years, has transformed the work of the reference librarian and the scholar; and it has presented serious challenges to the work of the subject bibliographer. In this paper I wish to consider five challenges faced by subject bibliographers as they approach the next century--a century that will surely be dominated even more thoroughly than the present one by the power of computers.

Probably every person who listens to or reads this paper has written bibliographies on various subjects. I wonder whether you gave much thought as you did so to the specific utility that your work would have, in terms of a clearly defined user? Certainly I have not always done this. In earlier days, before the 1960's, we did not often think in scientific ways about very much in librarianship, nor in bibliography. Indeed, the traditional bibliographer apparently had a purpose more concerned with the object produced than to any use that would be made of it. I imagine that Conrad Gesner wrote his Bibliotheca universalis the way that Beethoven wrote his last string quartet: as a complete structure in itself, apart from any thought about its reception by an audience. In other words bibliography began in the framework of Aristotle: objects were created according to certain fixed internal laws of structure. Only recently do we sense a framework more like that of Plato, with attention to the impact of a work upon its audience. This Platonic notion is displayed when we think about and study "users' needs."

I suggest that this is the first of my five challenges to be met by subject bibliographers in the new age: how to adjust from the inner-controlled mode of Aristotle to the outer-controlled mode of Plato. A bibliography can no longer be a thing in itself, but must point directly to a use and a user, and must define its value in external terms. No clear method of determining users' needs has yet emerged in the professional literature, but I will speculate about those needs in a moment.

Subject bibliography is our topic today. It is that branch of bibliographical endeavor which presents a list of books about a specific subject. (I use the word "books" as is customary in this context to encompass any kind of print or non-print medium of information. And I include in the universe of subject bibliography the preparation of indexes that are arranged by subject.) It seems that the fundamental approach of subject bibliographers, until recent times, has been to strive for completeness: to list all the books that pertain to the chosen subject. Of course this intention has always been doomed to fail. During periods when books were relatively few, scholars lacked the means of learning about all of them. In later times, when information about books became more solid and more widely disseminated--that is with the rise of universal and national bibliography--the number of books became too large for their entire output to be captured on any single list. As a result, the approach to completeness has been modified in practice by the application of a second principle: the principle of exclusion of the unfamiliar. All of us have observed and followed this principle in our bibliographical work, I suppose, although we may not have announced it to those who would be the users of our bibliographies. In fact we may not have announced it even to ourselves. In operation this principle means that we list only those books that we have seen or otherwise have some knowledge about at the time we are making up our list. Unfamiliar materials--those in remote languages, or in unusual formats, or those with limited distribution--are conveniently omitted. In its most dangerous version, this principle serves to produce a list of books that the bibliographer happens to have at hand. There is no necessary dishonor in this approach. After all, among the earliest lists of books were catalogs of personal libraries, such as that of Galen; or of monastic libraries. And catalogs of great national libraries from the Alexandrian to the British Library have an important place in bibliographic history. A problem arises when the limitation of proximity is not clearly stated. In some cases the user of a list is misled regarding its scope, by supposing that the list is comprehensive when it is only an indicator of what the bibliographer has seen. It is preferable to learn of limitations like this from the title page or introduction to a bibliography (as when Besterman warned us that he was "uncomfortable with Finnish") rather than to discover areas of omission later, after wasted hours.

Sending our thoughts forward to the next century, we may reasonably suspect that the vast computerized data bases in that happy time will be no more perfect than the persons who program them and invent their terms and perform the input of information.

Despite the mammoth scale involved in the great online files, the same prinicple of omitting the unfamiliar will apply. There is already evidence of this difficulty, as you will see if you consult two or more data bases in a search for materials on the same topic. Is it not always the case that items found in one file will not appear in another file, even when the same search terms are employed?

My proposal for dealing with the challenge of completeness is to aim instead for incompleteness. But the incomplete bibliography must be incomplete because it would thus be more valuable to the user--not because the bibliographer is unable or unwilling to write a comprehensive list of materials on the subject. Let me return to this point after I consider the second challenge to subject bibliography: definition of the subject itself, in terms of the materials being examined for inclusion in the bibliographic list. We confront here a set of problems. One is the growing complexity of subject matter and terminology. Subject indexers, unless they are also advanced specialists in the topical areas they have to analyze, will probably differ in their choice of subject headings or key words. Even when the subjects are not highly technical, we have research to show that indexers fail to agree on the materials to list under a given heading. How can the computer approach this problem? Full text searching by any word the user chooses seems like a promising path to follow, but of course it creates enormous difficulties: the size of such full text data bases requires costly computer storage, and it slows down the search process because of its bulk. And a free text search program is inherently slower than a search by prescribed key words, since the computer program cannot group citations in advance of the inquiry under likely search terms. In another sense free text searching is self-defeating, since the problem of choosing terms for the search is simply passed along to the user, who can only be an expert in one or two fields, and who is going to make large errors when outside the most familiar specializations.

To bring together the two challenges I have mentioned, it seems to me that the computer age will not easily bring solutions to the question of completeness in bibliographies, nor to the question of access terminology.

Now let me invite you to look at a third challenge. The user who is presented with a list of titles on a given subject may be pleased or discouraged. A short list of ten or twelve titles on a given subject may bring great satisfaction, especially if all the items on the list are accurate responses to the user's query. But a long list of several hundred or several thousand items will invariably bring discouragement. Boolean operators may reduce a long list to manageable proportions, but the application of those operators carries the risk of dropping from the active file one or more useful

items--simply because they are marginally outside the limits that seem appropriate when the list is being reduced. For example if we eliminate writing in certain languages in order to shorten a list, assuming that major research has not been reported in those languages, we may miss significant summaries and regional perspectives; if we eliminate materials published before a certain cutoff date, we may miss important items issued a year before the cutoff. In other words, subjective decisions are made, and they may be right ones or wrong ones. What does a user really want on this printout list of materials from an online file? I think that what I would want is a complete list of all that the data base has on my topic, but with the items grouped in terms of usefulness, perhaps in order from most useful to least useful. Of course for such an arrangement of entries to be possible, the computer would have to know what I would find useful. It could know that, or could make a good surmise about that, if it had been programmed for the purpose by a specialist in my field of interest. With such a pre-selected list, I could take from the top as many citations as I needed, and I would not be concerned about missing important materials lower on the list.

As I consider what else I would want to see,as a user, in the list of materials that the computer gives me, I am made aware of two other challenges to subject bibliography: two that have not yet been met in a thorough manner by the existing structures, computerized or traditional. These are challenges number four and number five.

I would like to see in my list of retrieved titles a description of what each book or other medium actually contains. We are now accustomed to seeing in the printouts or video responses to our queries of a data base a standardized bibliographic description of each item, with publication data, library classification numbers, ISBN's, etc. We do not usually see a description of content: an abstract of sufficient depth to enable us to judge at once whether the item is going to serve our purpose. Some files do give abstracts, and some of those are professional and valuable. But many abstracts I have seen, and you have seen, do little more than repeat the title of the book or article in different words, or simply say what we could guess about the content if we just analyzed the title in the context of its source publication. What I am looking for is more depth in the description, again in relation to my own needs as a user. Does a certain book contain graphs or tables that illuminate particular aspects of the topic? Does it have an index in which the expansive principle makes it possible for me to access the content of the book through topical clusters? Does it have a bibliography that is itself annotated? Are there photographs in the book that I would not have expected to find, but which might be important to me? Is the book footnoted or otherwise supplied with so-called scholarly apparatus? Such questions--significant to any user who has to trim a long list of items to a convenient size--are not in the scope of present computerized responses.

That was challenge four. Challenge number five extends it. As we look at an item in a bibliography (whether computer generated or traditionally produced) is not our fundamental question : how good is this? We do not want to bother with materials that are defective in method or presentation, or which derive from a weak grasp of subject matter on the part of the author. Challenge five is concerned with critical standards, a concept not yet established in the computerized data files, although it is fairly common to some extent in print bibliographies. Critical evaluation will become one of the bibliographic duties in the twenty-first century.

Let me now review the five challenges, and suggest a means of overcoming each of them. I will express them in terms of what bibliography as a profession ought to try to do, whether in a computerized environment or in a traditional print environment.

1) Avoid completeness. Substitute purposeful incompleteness, that is selectivity. Let selectivity operate with the user in mind, apart from any internal demands of the bibliography itself.
2) See that the subject content is accurately described by our access terminology.
3) Present materials to the user in some arrangement that reflects quality.
4) Give abstracts or descriptions that illuminate the work for the user and point out such special features as the user would find interesting.
5) Provide expert value judgments for each item listed.

These five challenges outline the profile of the new subject bibliography, as I see it, and the new subject bibliographer. The new bibliography of the twenty-first century will be selective, precisely described, and evaluated. The subject bibliographer will therefore be a specialist in the disciplines examined as well as in the task of bibliographic description. Such a person will be a scholar/librarian, narrowly focussed on a given field of study, working in harmony with other narrow apecialists. I believe th the ideal product of the labor of this specialist will be a book in print form, though of course it may also appear in electronic format; but it will be a book with fixed content, to which supplements may be added as needed. The user will therefore have available an expertly chosen selection of the literature on a desired topic, fully described, evaluated and arranged in a sequence that will place the most useful items first. The selection of materials will display the state of the art: the present core literature. For such a work, and its supplements, online data bases will offer further supplementary titles. The online searcher can cut off items dated prior to the issuance of the state of the art book, and work only with most recent entries.

Now we may consider a few implications of that profile of the new bibliographer. First the existence of such a person (indeed of the many thousands of such persons who will be needed) will depend on a professional occupational structure in which such individuals are recognized by suitable rank and title and are financially compensated

at a level that will compete with the levels of their subject disciplines. The second implication points toward library schools, which at present to not (with few exceptions) even begin to prepare persons to be the kind of bibliographers I am talking about. Another implication relates to national bibliographies. As we come closer to the goal of universal bibliographic control, we ought to be simultaneously raisi our standards for national bibliographies, to make them better tools for the subject bibliographer of the next century. After all, no scholar wants to search through an entire national bibliography. Researchers will always rely on subject lists drawn from the national output, and the new subject bibliographer will have to provide those lists. The dependence of the subject bibliographer on the quality and richness of detail in the national bibliographies is obvious.

But above all the fundamental implication of what I have been discussion is that all of us who write bibliographies, and all who publish or disseminate them, and all who use them,ought to rethink our philosophical premises. We all need to become Platonists , concerned with the precise needs of the end user, rather than Aristotelians, concerned with the object of our work in itself.

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0910

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Division: Bibliographic Control

Section:

113-BIBCO.-1-E

Bibliographic Information Interchange in East Asia

by

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KEYWORD(S):

Cataloguing standards
Japan
China
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For internal use only:

To be brought to meeting no:

57

Remarks:

to be presented orally [X]

for distribution only [ ]

Bibliographic information interchange in East Asia

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1. Chinese character cultural sphere

Between the East Asian countries of Japan, China and Korea, the most significant feature of bibliographic information interchange is the Chinese characters. The Chinese character cultural sphere is represented by the above mentioned three countries. Indetail, the Chinese groups are distributed in several places in Asia: Mainland China, Taiwan, Hongkong, Singapore, etc. In addition to them, North Korea and Viet-Nam were once included in the sphere, historically. It is said that the sphere overlapped the chopstick cultural area.

Chinese characters are quite unique in the world, as they are ideographic scripts. Although the ideographic scripts have been thought of as anachronistic characters compared with phonetic scripts, they continue to survive in modern East Asian countries despite movements to abolish or limit their use.[1] I am not sure about the advantages and disadvantages of abolishing Chinese characters for North Korea and Viet-Nam, but we must appreciate Chinese characters because they work actively in our culture.

Chinese characters or Chinese classics have been the common written language in East Asian contries for 2,000 years.

But as Chinese characters were not a phonetic script, pronunciation varied not only between countries but also within the same contry. Moreover, simplification of characters had been promoted in Mainland China and in Japan without any mutual agreement between both countries. Many problems exist, however Chinese characters are still an important common communication script in East Asian countries.

2. Cataloging rules

Cataloging rules consist of two parts: description and access points(heading).

On description: we have a worldwide standard "ISBD", and in Japan,Korea and China(Taiwan), acting cataloging rules are based on ISBD.[2] For Oriental materials, ISBD(NRS) — Non Roman Script — has ever planned for Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic, Hebrew and Yiddish etc. However East Asian languages use ideographic scripts; on the other had, Near Eastern or Middle Asian languages are phonetic. There are not so many problems between the Far East and the west, but Arabic or Hebrew present a problem because they are written from right to left. I think ISBD(NRS) should be divided into ISBD(EAS) — East Asian Script, and ISBD(NAS) — Near Eastern Asian Script.

On access points: future discussions are left behind. Bibliographic information including Chinese characters needs transcription to phonetic scripts, excepting the stroke or radical order of Chinese characters which is still available in libraries in China.[3]

As I have already mentioned, pronunciations of Chinese characters are different in CJK countries and even within China itself. The general principle of access points or superimposing of cataloging in each CJK country is to be transcribed by each pronunciation into Kana, Hangul or Roman letters.

In Japan, almost of all research libraries' technical processing works traditionally have been divided into two parts: Japanese-Chinese-Korean and Western materials. Then Chinese characters are superimposed by Japanese pronunciation in Kana or Roman letter. Recently they are going to reform from processing East Asian materials in one group to dividing the materials into each of the CJK languages.[4] The principle reasons why the division will be made are as follows: first, the difficulty of Korean books written in Hangul or Chinese characters mixed with Hangul; secondly, the increase of new characters or simplified ones and pervading of Pinyin in Mainland China. In the case of research libraries in our country, the title catalog has no problem containing the access points or heading of Korean and Chinese books in Hangul or Roman letters, as almost all users are expected to understand both languages. But some difficulty remains for Japanese readers who have little knowledge of each language, and would like to see some materials such as a map, a book of paintings, statistical data, etc.

3. Author catalog

The author catalog has more troublesome problems, especially in books translated from Chinese or Korean into Japanese. The NCR preliminary new edition provides that "Chinese personal names indicated in Kanji(Chinese character) will be described in Japanese pronunciation" (NCR article no. 3.4.3.2.2). On the article, in the 14th Kochi Library Conference at Kochi in 1982, the reform to revert to the original pronunciation was demanded. On 19th Feb. 1983, the article was revised according to the proposal. However, ordinary Japanese users and catalogers don't know Korean or Chinese pronunciation other than that which appears on the title page so on in Kana or Roman letters.[5]

Beside the pronunciation of personal names in East Asia, we have some other topics to be resolved. It is said, that Western people have about 50,000 surnames and Japanese have 120,000 - 130,000, in contrast Chinese have 506 and Korean have only 248(another report 258), in which 5 major surnames occupy 38% and 35 surnames are used by 90% of the total.[6] This fact means that in China and Korea the surname is not the first key to the personal name, as in the West and Japan. Secondly, we have problems in the Romanization system: Wade-Gils against Pinyin in China, McCune-Reischauer against Munkyobu system in Korea, Hepburn against Kunrei system in Japan. The European traditional arrangement for personal name or organization name is from the small one to the large one:

first name to surname, section to division, and so on... opposite to East Asian tradition. We have no definite consensus on the order of Roman expressions, whether it should be Western style or Asian style.

In the case of access points being written in phonetical scripts, Japanese personal names in Chinese characters are often quite difficult to pronounce as are Westerners' names transliterated in Chinese scripts in Chinese materials. Though it is quite desirable that be both superimposed in Roman letters or in Kana, it is not yet put into practice sufficiently by publishers. Transliteration of Westerners' personal names into Kana is various: for example, Robert Louis Stevenson has 17 sets of Kana descriptions.[7] On the other hand, a most popular Korean personal name 李 Romanized as Yi, Lee, Rhee, Rieh etc.[6-#3]

Heading now called access point is nothing more than key to retrieve bibliographic information. And especially, author is by no means main access point in East Asia. Title should be first and ISBN comes to second.

ISBN(and ISSN) are the most important control numbers to retrieve bibliographic data. In Japan, ISBN had started to put them on books published in Japan since 1981 beginning with group number 4 and soon 7 for China. I hope that in other part of East Asia putting on ISBN is strongly promoted.

4. Bibliographic data base

Japan MARC was completed in Oct. 1980 and began to distribute in Apr. 1981. Now it has become a large data base of Japanese publications which contains over 400,000 records. On the other hand, National Center for Bibliographic Imformation(formerly belonged to University of Tokyo) developed an automated data base of "Union list of scientific periodicals in Japanese language" and MARC including Japan MARC, publisher's NIPPAN MARC for Japanese materials. In Apr. 1985, the data base began to work as the national center for all research libraries in Japan and the number of participating libraries became 11 as online network.[8]

Outside Japan, CJK Program by RLG/RLIN in USA, KORMARC by the Central National Library in Seoul and Chinese MARC by the National Central Library in Taipei are looking as if they are going their own way. Since they are all based on ISBD in cataloging description and UNIMARC on mechanization format (if we discuss more on contents designater, character set and code number), being confer concerning above mentioned problems between each country, then East Asian bibliographic data base may be established.

5. Conclusion

The establishment of a standard committee on East Asian bibliographic information and the publication of a concerned bulletin is desirable. The committee should discuss standardization of cataloging rules, Chinese character set, MARC format, international interlibrary loan including copying,

promotion of translation, exchange of information and personal exchange, and so on. The difficulty of the committee is not in the content to be discussed, but problems of another nature. First, political problems exist. How do we consider organizing members and extent of East Asian countries? The second problem is language. English may be a common language, but it is not enough for us to discuss details. Japanese, Chinese and Korean should be working languages assisted by bilingual librarians. The third is budget. It must be difficult to hold often meeting wherever it will be settled to participate in the meeting. We can hold under the joint auspices of a bigger conference such as IFLA, ASPAC, ICANAS(former CISHAAN) or IAOL. However it may be necessary to found the standard committee under stable financial base independently.

Notes

1. Number of basic (daily use) Chinese script:
   China(Mainland) 2,238
   Japan 1,945
   Korea 1,800
2. #Nippon cataloging rules, preliminary new edition. Prepared by the Japan Library Association, 1977.
   #Korean cataloging rules for description. Prepared by the Korean Library Association. 3rd ed.,1983.
   #Chinese cataloging rules, concise edition. prepared by the National Central Library, Taipei, 1985.

3. Major university libraries of the world/ by Hiroshi Tanabe and Kotaro Araoka. -- Tokyo: Yushodo, 1986. 279 p. -- ISBN4-8419-0019-5 (Pt.1,chap.1-2)
4. Iwayuru Peking card riyo zakkan/ by Ikuko Sasaki (Tokyo University library bulletin. Vol. 23,no.11,1984)
5. Proposal on Korean personal names in cataloging rules. (Toshokanzashi. Vol.77,no.1,1983) P.7.
"Announcement of revision". (Toshokanzashi. Vol.77, no.4, 1983) p.235.
6. #Gaikokujin no seimei/ by Shuji Shimamura. -- Tokyo: Gyosei, 1980. -- 306 p.
#Nippon no seishi (Rekishidokuhon. Tokushugo no.12, 1984).
#The characteristics of Korean personal names and their treatment as heading in library catalogs/ by Soon-chung Hahn. (Proceedings of 2nd ASPAC in Library Science, 1985. Seoul) pp.66-74.
7. 17 nin no Stevenson. -- Tokyo: Toshokan Ryutsu Center, 1985. -- 114 p. -- ISBN 4-924702-06-4
8. Bunken Joho Center news. No.11,1986. ISSN 0289-0305.

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140-BIB-4-E

Development of Bibliography on Asian Countries in USSR

by

N.P. Igumnova
Moscow, USSR

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DEVELOPMENT OF BIBLIOGRAPHY ON ASIAN COUNTRIES IN USSR

The, new programme of average urgency which was adopted by the Permanent Comission of the Section o Bibliography of IFLA as a priority problem has proposed studying the national bibliographies in developing countries and first of all in the Asian countries. Bibliography of country studies and one of its components - bibliography of Eastern studies in the USSR started developing in the late two decades. The interest of people of our country for the life of the peoples of Asia, their history, culture, social and economic problems is very great and is explained by the constantly growing role of the countries of the Asian Continent in the modern world. Broad information about all the literature published and being published is possible due to the active bibliographic work that is being carried on by scientific and scholar institutions and public organizations, publishing houses and newspaper editorial staff. The most significanf among them are the Institute of Eastern Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences and institutes of the academies of sciences of union and autonomous republics, the greatest universities of the country. The bibliographic indices summarize the information on the publications in the scientific and political journals and magazines: "Peoples of Asia and Africa", "Asia and Africa Today", "Round the World". Valuable contribution to the bibliographic work is made by the publishing houses "Nauka", "Mir", "Progress" and others.

The system of the bibliographic information in the country consists of sources of different content, aim, character and topic. It includes

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state bibliographic indices which register all the publications of the country, departmental and topical bibliographic publications of scholar auxiliary and recommendation character, the catalogues of libraries, the plans of publications, the catalogues of booktrade publications. Periodical editions, publications of review and synopsis character also contain bibliographic information. The activies of institutions and organizations in the field of bibliography are regulated by the state standards which were worked out in the frames of the state system of standards of information, librarianship and publishing (SIBID), such as "Bibliographic Activities", "State Bibliographic Indices" etc.

A significant role in informing about literature on Eastern studies is played by such substancial sources of bibliographic information as the international reference books"Bibliographic Services of the World"(x (xx which are edited in the form of annual reports. They show the activities of the bibliographic centres of different countries which carry on compiling national bibliographies, bibliographic information of departmental centres including those that work in the field of bibliography of Eastern studies.

A very important source of scholar information on the Asian countries in the USSR is periodicals. The journal "Peoples of Asia and Africa" has a big section called "Criticism and Bibliography" which contains reviews of Soviet and foreign publications, notes about books and also lists of great scholars' works. The journal "Asia and Africa Today" and other periodicals give us information about new books on

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x) The services bibliographiques daus le Monde... Repport annual... - Paris: UNESCO, 1955

xx) International industry market place... An intern. directory of inform products a services... - N.-Y., L. : Bowker, 1981-

Eastern studies.

The main part of the bibliographic information on Eastern studies is bibliographic reference books published by the state bibliographic boards - book chambers. The departmental sections of "Chronicles", "Annual Book Publication in the USSR" and others contain information about all the books, journals, magazines, articles, cartographic material and other publications on this topic published in the country.

Current and retrospective scientific auxiliary bibliographic publications of our country are original sources basis of research in the field of Eastern studies.

In the USSR there exists a system of current bibliographic information on Asia to render assistance for scholars including different periodicals (monthly, quarterly, annual etc.).

The Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences of the USSR Academy of Sciences (INION) has become the centre of current bibliography on Eastern studies. It is the leading informative institution of the country in the field of social sciences. The monthly bibliographic publications of INION series "New Soviet and Foreign Literature on Social Sciences": "Countries of Asia and Africa" - M.,1947 - "South and South-East Asia, Far East" - M., 1947 are the most complete and effective current publications. These bibliographic publications contain information about new literature in the Russian language, the languages of the peoples of the USSR, foreign (European and Eastern) languages. On the basis of cummulation of the material of monthly bibliographic publications INION in collaboration with the Institute of Eastern Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences publishes bibliographic bulletins of the literature on the countries of Asia, Africa, Oceania which were annual since 1964 and then were edited once two and more years. They contain the information on the Soviet original publications and publications in translation devoted

to the countries of particular regions.

Synopsis information on the new literature on Eastern studies is also prepared by INION in the quarterly review journal "Social Sciences Abroad" of the series "Eastern and African Studies".

The publication of the series of the retrospective bibliographic indices on literature started at the end of the 50-ies - the beginning of the 60-ies. The majority of the indices of the series have been carried out by the Institute of Eastern Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences, partially in cooperation with other institutions, with INION in particular. They have published the following indices: "Bibliography of South-East Asia", those devoted to particular countries, for example "Bibliography of India", "Bibliography of Turkey" in two volumes and "Bibliography of Japan" and also bibliographic indices on Iran, Afganistan, the Mongolian People's Republic, Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Nepal.

The publications mentioned above are of complex character, they reflect a the aspects of the life of a particular country or a region. These publications of this series are similar as far as their inner structure, principles of selecting material, polygraphic design are concerned.

The All-Union State Library of Foreign Literature (VGBIL) is very active in the field of bibliography of country studies of scholar auxiliary character. So, it has been publishing a series of annotated indices on the countries of Asia (the Philippines, Indonesia, Iran). The indices include in themselves literature in the Russian and foreign (European and Eastern) languages and reflect the historical, economic, political and social development of those countries during the period of the Second World War. The library also prepares indices of the literature on particular problems of the social development of Asian countries.

Besides the fundamental bibliographies devoted to Asian countries in our country we have prepared bibliographic reference publications and bibliographic indices of fiction; for example, "Arabic Studies in the USSR (1917-1959)", "Fiction of Foreign East", "Bibliography of Literature in Translation into Languages of Peoples of the USSR" and some others.

Literature on Asia is very fully reflected in the bibliographic publications by the Lenin State Library of the USSR (GBL). The library has the richest collections of books and periodicals in the languages of Asian peoples. Being the centre of culture and art the GBL edits bibliographic publications on the content of its collections in order to popularize the best works on particular problems. For example, the annotated indices "Literature on Art of Asian and African Countries", - M., 1978, published by the library contain information about books in the Arabic, Vietnamese, Chinese, Mongolian, Persian, Turkish, Hindi, Japanese languages. In order to popularize the content of the collections of the libraries of the country, to make the periodicals and editions still in progress of the Asian countries available the GBL in cooperation with other libraries has prepared "Retrospective Summary Indices of Foreign Periodicals and Editions in Progress Kept at the Greatest Libraries of the USSR, 1750-1965." - M., Book, 1974, which is a reference book for interlibrarian subscription and is very useful informative material.

Besides the editions of regional country studies character mentioned above the Soviet bibliography on Eastern studies is represented by the publications which contain information on the studies carried out by scientific institutions and also by the indices of bibliographic reference books. The bibliographic editions "Eastern Studies through Publications

of Academy of Sciences, 1729-1917", M., Nauka, 1966, and "Bibliography of Publications by the Asian Museum and Institute of Eastern Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences (1917-1958) include books and articles from periodicals and editions in progress of the USSR Academy of Sciences in the Russian and foreign languages published since the beginning of the activities of the Academy for the period before the Great October Socialist Revolution and for the following 50 years.

In the field of bibliography the Library of the USSR Academy of Sciences (BUN of the USSR) publishes the indices of bibliographic reference books. For example, it has prepared the publication "Indices of Bibliography on Mongolian Studies in the Russian Language, 1824-1960", L., 1962.

A significant part of the bibliography on country studies is recommendation reference publications. Their aim is to familiarize broad sections of readers with the literature on modern economic, political and cultural life of countries. Recommendation indices are devoted both to the whole continents ("Countries of Asia") and to separate countries. In this respect the series of indices "Countries and Peoples of the World" published since the beginning of the 70-ies by the Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library in cooperation with the Geographical Society of the USSR and the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. A number of editions of the series are devoted to countries of the Asian Continent. The series began with the indices "India", then the indices on the Literature on Mongolia, Iran, Japan, Viet-Nam, Burma were published. Those publications destined for the readers who intend to broaden their knowledge about a certain country include both popular and the main scholarly literature.

Bibiliographic reference publications devoted to the problems of developing countries, and among them the countries of the Asian Continent, are prepared by the Lenin State Library of the USSR, the centre of recommentation bibliography in the country. For the sake of popularizing the fiction of developing countries the GBL edits recommendation reference publications of different types: quarterly "Literature and Art", the indices "Foreign Writers of the XX Century" and some others. A special series of indices prepared by the All-Union State Library of Foreign Literature "Writers of Foreign Countries" familiarizes Soviet readers with the works of the classics of the world literature, among them Rabindranath Tagore, Mulk Raj Amand (India), Jamal Zade (Iran), Nazim Hikmet, Resat Nuri Guntekin (Turkey) and others. The library has also prepared the indices "The Main Works of Foreign Fiction": Lit. of Countries of Foreign East: Lit. Bibliogr. Reference Book". - M., 1975. - 562 p.

Alongside with preparing published sources of bibliographic information on Eastern studies the libraries and scholarly centres of the country supply scholars with reference bibliographic service by using its individual and collective forms: selective distribution of information, surveys of new entries, topical notes etc. Reference bibliographic service is based on the catalogues and card indices of a number of libraries. For example, since 1957 the Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences of the USSR Academy of Sciences (INION) has been preparing a joint catalogue of foreign books on Eastern studies which reflects the collections of the greatest libraries: GBL, INION, VGBIL, GPIB (State Public Historical Library). They also have card indices: "Soviet Literature about Countries of Asia, Africa and Oceania" that contain the information on books and articles in Russian, in the languages of the peoples of the USSR and in foreign languages, "Scholarly Works of the Institute of Eastern Studies of the

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USSR Academy of Sciences" and others.

The Lenin State Library of the USSR carries on great work to collect bibliographic information on the collections of libraries in the languages of the peoples of Asia and Africa. The library fills up joint catalogues of books and periodicals in the languages of the peoples of Asia that are held in the GDL or other libraries of the country, arranges a systematic catalogue of literature the GDL has got recently.

Book exhibitions are very useful in popularization and propogating the information about the literature on Asian countries. Museums, scientific research institutions hold conferences, seminars and meetings which promote the propogation of the literature on Eastern studies, studies of the life in Asian countries.

I should also dwell on one more aspect of the problem I am speaking about. This is the use of bibliographic information in the process of education. Great bibliographic work is carried on by the libraries of higher educational institutions of the Soviet Union ; the institutions train a great number of highly qualified specialists for many countries, including Asian countries. The Library of the University of Friendship of Peoples named after P.Lumumba carries on information and reference bibliofraphic work. Specialists compile card indices on country studies, publish the bibliographic indices "Publications of the P.Lumumba University of Friendship of Peoples (1961-1965, 1966-1967)- M., 1967-1968". , "Training of Foreign Students and Post-Graduates in the USSR and Abroad"- M., 1979.- and others, supply professors and post-graduates with bibliographic service by the way of selective distribution of information, prepare topical surveys of literature.

The All-Union State Library of Foreign Literature helps greatly in the process of training specialists in the problems of Asian countries. Having rich collections of Eastern literature, a highly developed system

of librarian and information services the library holds exhibitions of social political, scientific and ducational literature and fiction, compiles topical card indices, carries on surveys of books, collects audio-visual material, arranges service with their help, and in this way the library promotes scholars' research, training of students and the public in Eastern languages.

Thus the system of bibliographic information on Asia that has been created in the USSR is expected to serve various categories of users of the information - scholars, pupils and students, the public etc. and is a part of the all-state system of bibliographic information. The cooperation of specialists of different countries promotes more active activities in the field of bibliography on country studies, more active participation in the international projects on exchange and use of information. The international congresses of scholars in Eastern studies are a significant form of such cooperation. At the congresses they often stress the necessity of creating an international system of scientific information on this field of khowledge, its importance for the development of the science. In this respect the scientific conferences on historiography and source studies of the countries of foreign Asia and Africa held regularly are very significant. At the same time the cooperation of librarians and bibliographers, workers of the information system of the world is developing; the seminars of the librarians of the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America held in the USSR with the assistance of UNESCO in 1972 and 1975 are of great importance in particular.

The bilateral seminars of librarians which are a very important form of cooperation and exchange of experience have become traditional and are a success. An example of such seminars in which librarians from the USSR and Asian countries took part were Soviet-Mongolian seminars which have taken place both in the USSR and Mongolia since 1975.

The mutual exchanges of visits of Soviet and foreign specialists, the exchanges of post-graduates promote the exchange of the experience in the field of librarianship and bibliography. For the late 5 years Soviet libraries have been visited by representatives of the libraries of India, Afganistan, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal. Librarians from Viet-Nam, Mongolia, Afganistan have been trained at the USSR libraries. Soviet specialists have visited Sri-Lanka, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic and other countries for exchange of experience.

The forms of international cooperation mentioned above promote the development of professional and creative contacts of scholars and specialists of many countries of the world, the forming of national and international information systems in all the fields of knowledge and all these things stimulate the creative development of the decisions of the XXYII- th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union concerning strengthening friendly cultural relations between the peoples of the world.

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Doctoral Dissertations on Asia

The Issue of Bibliographical Control and Access

by

Frank Joseph SHULMAN

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Association for Asian Studies, Inc., and

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University of Maryland-College Park Libraries

College Park, Maryland, U.S.A.

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Asian Studies

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ABSTRACT

Doctoral Dissertations on Asia: The Issue of Bibliographical Control and Access

--Frank Joseph Shulman (USA)

Doctoral dissertations have played a significant role in advancing Western knowledge and understanding of Asia. Bibliographical controls for this rapidly growing body of scholarly literature have improved in terms of their scope and nature. An integrated information system for theses dealing with East, Southeast and South Asia currently exists. It encompasses the annual bibliographical journal *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia* and a series of retrospective, book-length bibliographies. More should still be done, however, to improve the types of bibliographical coverage available for the thesis literature. There is also an urgent need to make the dissertation typescripts themselves more accessible to interested users. This calls for greater cooperation among librarians and academics in eliminating bureaucratic barriers and in developing specialized collections of dissertations about Asia. Further exchanges of information and the publication of additional bibliographies would be highly beneficial as well.

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS ON ASIA

THE ISSUE OF BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL AND ACCESS

-- Frank Joseph Shulman --

For more than a century, the doctoral dissertation has normally constituted the highest level of graduate student research undertaken within the academic world. Often requiring three or more years of intensive research and writing, the preparation of a thesis has provided its author with the opportunity to make an original contribution to scholarship as well as to demonstrate his ability to pursue a rigorous course of investigation, to substantiate and document his conclusions, and to present his findings to a learned audience. Receipt of the doctorate on the basis of a successfully defended thesis has been generally regarded as the first major accomplishment in a scholar's professional career.

Within the field of Asian Studies, the decades following World War II witnessed a very rapid increase in the award of doctorates for research on Asian subjects at institutions throughout the West. This development, of course, was not an isolated phenomenon. Higher education in North America during the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, for example, was characterized by a tremendous growth in student enrollments and by major expansions in graduate degree programs, as evidenced by the quadrupling of the number of dissertations completed each year at universities in the United States and Canada from 8,812 in 1955 to 34,812 in 1975. But for Asian Studies, the postwar era was especially noteworthy not only because of the many dissertations being written about Asia at that time but also--and more significantly--for their role in creating the basis for a more sophisticated understanding of the history, civilization and contemporary life of Asia.

Before World War II, only a few academic specialists on Japan were active in the United States; Southeast Asian Studies had not yet come into their own; and the amount of research and study of the great civilizations of India and China that was under way could hardly begin to compare with the attention then being paid to the history and civilizations of Europe and the ancient Near East. Today, by contrast, despite tight university budgets, continuing hostility on the part of some social scientists, inadequate employment opportunities for younger scholars, and certain structural weaknesses within the field, Asian Studies in the West are noticeably more healthy and productive than one could have imagined at the end of the war.

Proof of this development can be seen in the large number of academic books and articles on Asia appearing in print year after year. Much of this published scholarship, moreover, has been directly related to the dissertation research of the growing community of Asian Studies specialists. The earliest published monographs of such senior scholars as John Whitney Hall, Hugh Tinker, Clifford Geertz and Rhoads Murphey were based on their respective doctoral dissertations.[1] Such has also been the case among younger American and European academics such as Carol Newman Gluck, Mary Backus Rankin, Norman G. Owen, David Dean Shulman and Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty.[2] While precise statistics have never been compiled, over forty percent of the scholarly books and up to one-third of the scholarly articles about Asia published in the West during the past three decades appear to have grown out of their respective authors' thesis research.

Also contributing to this increase in Western-language publishing about Asia has been the dramatic expansion in the number of theses submitted by Asian nationals in pursuit of higher degrees at American, European and Australian institutions. While only a small percentage of the thousands of Asian Ph.D. degree recipients in the West each year write their dissertations on

topics related to Asia, their contributions are very important to the field of Asian Studies. These students normally have the linguistic expertise for intensive field research, at times they have greater access to the requisite information sources, and they often prepare dissertations of both academic and utilitarian value. Their subsequent publications have enriched the corpus of available scholarly literature and have led to a better Western appreciation of current Asian concerns and points of view.

Adequate bibliographical controls exist for much of the monographic and periodical literature produced by Americans, Europeans and Asians alike. Extensive information is available not only within the annual volumes of the *Bibliography of Asian Studies* (produced by the Association for Asian Studies) but also in such specialized guides as Maureen L.P. Patterson's monumental *South Asian Civilizations: A Bibliographic Synthesis*, Laurence G. Thompson's *Chinese Religion in Western Languages: A Comprehensive and Classified Bibliography of Publications in English, French and German through 1980*, and *Studies on Korea: A Scholar's Guide*, edited by Han-Kyo Kim.[3] To what extent, however, are there satisfactory bibliographical controls for the thesis literature itself? And to what extent are the dissertation typescripts available as a resource for students and scholars to use?

Until the early 1960s, bibliographical coverage of dissertation research on Asia *per se* was completely inadequate. Only then did a few individuals--most notably Curtis W. Stucki, Barry C. Bloomfield and Klaus L. Janert--bring out detailed guides of immediate practical value for people in Asian Studies.[4] In certain respects their pioneering work has not since been superseded. As useful as their bibliographies were, however, the information which they and some of their energetic successors (e.g., Lian The and Paul van der Veur, and D. R. and Bhanu D. Sardesai) provided was all too often insufficient.[5] Bibliographical entries normally contained only brief descriptive data: the

author's name, thesis title, degree-awarding institution, and year of degree. The pagination of the thesis typescripts, each author's academic major, and information concerning published thesis abstracts and the availability of the dissertation typescripts themselves did not routinely apppear. None of the guides was annotated. With occasional exceptions, moreover, only those theses whose titles made it absolutely clear that they dealt in some way with Asia were picked up. As a consequence, hundreds of additionally relevant dissertations (particularly ones in history, international relations, government and politics, and economics) were inevitably overlooked.

In 1968, Frank Joseph Shulman (at that time a graduate student at the University of Michigan) took on the task of preparing a retrospective bibliography for the entire body of Western-language thesis research in existence about Japan and Korea. In deciding to enhance the type of bibliographical coverage that would appear for each entry within such a guide, Shulman chose to include not only the basic data called for in such respected handbooks as the *Chicago Manual of Style* but also the citations to published thesis abstracts, details about the availability of the typescripts, the pagination of the dissertations, descriptive annotations of their contents, and publication data about books and articles by the respective dissertation authors that grew out of their doctoral studies. Furthermore, each foreign-language thesis title was accompanied by an idiomatic translation into English. (In his subsequent bibliographical work, Shulman also came to include the type of doctoral degree awarded--information especially important in the case of those Europeans who have written doctoral-level theses for two different degrees such as the Doctorat de 3^{e} cycle and the Doctorat d'Etat in the course of their academic careers--and the name of the academic department in which each thesis was written.) In this manner, he sought to upgrade existing bibliographical standards and to facilitate the efforts of individual readers in getting ahold

of copies of dissertations that were of particular interest to them.

As opportunities arose, Shulman expanded the scope and nature of his bibliographical coverage by taking steps to create an integrated information system for doctoral dissertations dealing with all parts of Asia. This materialized in (1) the creation of an ongoing, periodic listing of the most recent theses about East, Southeast and South Asia, and (2) a long-term commitment to preparing additional, retrospective, book-length bibliographies, each of which would cumulate in classified and indexed fashion a minimum of several hundred entries for doctoral work on one or more Asian countries.

From the beginning, the serial listing which Shulman inaugurated was published as a service to the profession by the Association for Asian Studies.[6] After first appearing as a column within the *Association for Asian Studies Newsletter* (1969-1971) and the *Asian Studies Professional Review* (1971-1974), it was transformed into an annual bibliographical journal entitled *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia*. Its coverage of dissertations about East, Southeast and South Asia has since become worldwide. Thanks to the ongoing contributions of Patricia Polansky (University of Hawaii Library), the extensive body of Soviet *kandidat nauk* and *doktor nauk* theses is being comprehensively covered. Insofar as possible, theses accepted by institutions in such Asian countries as India, the Philippines and the Republic of China (Taiwan) are now also being included.

The retrospective, book-length bibliographies that have appeared so far have in turn offered coverage for thesis research about the countries of East Asia in particular. Two volumes each on (a) Japan and Korea and (b) China and Inner Asia have been published to date, and a third volume on China and Inner Asia will come out shortly through the University of Washington Press.[7] South and Southeast Asia have not been entirely ignored, however, with the publication (in 1971) of *Doctoral Dissertations on South Asia, 1966-1970* and

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of definitive guides to the thesis literature about Malaya and Malaysia (in 1979) and about Burma (in 1986).[8] Very extensive files--containing entries for well over 15,000 dissertations dealing in whole or in part with South Asia and with Southeast Asia respectively and defended at institutions of higher learning around the globe since the late 1960s--are also being prepared for eventual publication.[9]

As a result of these many endeavors and the accomplishments of a number of additional librarians and library associations, bibliographical controls for Western-language doctoral dissertation research on Asia today are far more satisfactory than they were twenty-five years ago. Evidence exists that the several published bibliographies cited above as well as the various issues of the journal *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia* have been heavily used by graduate students and research-oriented scholars in both the humanities and the social sciences. Nevertheless, there is still considerable room for improvement.

First of all, while Shulman has been taking the initiative to provide the field of Asian Studies with extensive information about dissertations on a country-by-country basis, very little has yet been done to prepare cross-country, topically-oriented, critically annotated guides to the thesis literature on Asia. Bibliographies of dissertations dealing with such subjects as agricultural modernization, economic development, political elites, the role of women, Asian literature in translation, ethnic minorities, Asia's cultural heritage, and intra-regional relations, etc. would almost certainly be well received. Furthermore, because of their preoccupation with the monographic and periodical literature, far too many compilers of the subject-oriented bibliographies dealing with Asia that exist do not list all of the available dissertations even though such coverage can now be provided with comparatively little extra effort. In addition, it has still not become standard practice to include within bibliographic entries for dissertations the citations to

the summaries published in *Dissertation Abstracts International* as well as the order numbers for dissertations available through University Microfilms International, the Canadian Theses on Microfiche Service, and the British Library Lending Division. (In the case of unpublished theses that cannot be obtained through some cooperative microfilming service, the name and address of the library that owns a copy of the dissertation should be provided instead.) Since most North American and British theses are not routinely acquired by libraries and are rarely available through bookstores, the failure to provide such information tends to result in additional (and unnecessary) work for the interested reader or for his institutional librarian.

Second, insofar as the journal *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia* (the most comprehensive current source of bibliographical data about newly completed theses on Asia) is specifically concerned, the journal's effort to offer its readers timely coverage is compromised by inevitable delays in the editor's efforts to secure bibliographical information for European and Asian dissertations. Certain important sources upon which Shulman tends to rely--for example, the annual bibliographies of dissertations accepted by all of the universities in Australia, France, India, South Africa, the Netherlands, Poland, etc. --are several years behind in their publication, and individual correspondents can bring only a small fraction of the newly completed foreign thesis literature to his attention. Moreover, because of limited manpower and funding, the journal *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia* can be published only once each year rather than two or three times annually, as originally envisaged, thereby slowing down even more the actual dissemination of the collected bibliographical information.

Third, there is a growing need to computerize the existing bibliographic data bases for doctoral dissertations on Asian subjects. Again, in the case of the work which Shulman has been doing, serious consideration is now being given

to the feasibility and expense of automating both the compilation and the production of the journal *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia* and of converting into machine-readable form the massive files of bibliographic data for dissertations written before the mid-1980s (especially for theses about South and Southeast Asia) that are awaiting publication within retrospective, country-oriented guides. Automation promises many advantages, and the creation of a machine-readable bibliographic data base for completed dissertations on Asia which can be manipulated and disseminated in many ways should enable teachers, students and librarians to become even more aware of the theses that relate to their research endeavors. The Association for Asian Studies is presently automating its annual *Bibliography of Asian Studies*, using hardware and software designed to reproduce various Asian vernacular scripts and the many diacritical marks employed in both European and transliterated Asian languages. The Association's experience with its *Bibliography* may well provide the key for computerizing *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia*. At the same time, it is essential to remember that any automated system is only as good as its data base. The painstaking, time-consuming task of gathering, checking, compiling, classifying and editing the bibliographic data--work that requires, among other things, tracking down the many dissertations which deal only in part with Asia, translating foreign-language thesis titles into English, identifying new sources of information, and obtaining through correspondence, visits to libraries and exchanges of information such frequently unpublished bibliographical data as the pagination of the dissertation typescripts and the thesis authors' fields of specialization--will be ongoing.

Perhaps the area in greatest need of improvement is one that is largely beyond the bibliographer's control: making the dissertation typescripts themselves more accessible. While it is possible for an enterprising and conscientious bibliographer to provide exhaustive coverage of dissertations about a given

country and to identify the location of copies of the theses which he lists, only the degree-awarding institution and the research libraries that have made long-term commitments to Asian Studies can insure the availability of the thesis typescripts whenever they are requested. While there has been very substantial progress in this regard during the past thirty years, much more can and should be done. Let us briefly review the present situation and note a few ways in which it could be improved.

Specialists in Asian Studies are fortunate in that the dissertations on Asian subjects written by students in the Netherlands, West Germany, Sweden and Finland are customarily available in some published form. As a general rule, degree candidates in those countries are expected to have their theses published commercially or to deposit 100-150 privately printed copies at their own universities for distribution to research libraries at home and abroad.[10] The holdings of such printed theses at selected American institutions that have resulted from this practice--in particular, the holdings of the Center for Research Libraries in Chicago (with perhaps as many as 800,000 printed theses dating back to the nineteenth century)--are quite extensive and are generally available through interlibrary loan. Regretfully, their existence is not as well known as it should be. Even more accessible, since they technically never go out of print, are the American dissertations that have been filmed by University Microfilms International (UMI) in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Over eighty percent of all U.S. theses completed since the mid-1960s (including thousands on Asian topics) have been sent by their degree-awarding institutions to UMI for filming. Brief descriptive summaries (350-600 words in length), written by the thesis authors, are compiled and edited by the UMI staff for publication in the monthly volumes of *Dissertation Abstracts International*; and xerographic ("xerox"), microfilm and microfiche copies of the dissertation typescripts are then reproduced from UMI's master negatives whenever

orders for them are received. With over 30,000 new American dissertations being filmed each year, only the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. can afford to acquire, house and permanently make available for on-site scholarly use microform copies of all of them.[11] Nevertheless, many American research libraries do purchase copies of individual theses in response to requests for specific titles that are submitted by students and faculty members on their campuses.

In Great Britain and Canada, as a result of efforts undertaken in recent years by the British Library Lending Division at Boston Spa and the Canadian Theses on Microfiche Service of the National Library of Canada in Ottawa, most newly completed dissertations on Asia are also readily available to interested readers.[12] However, one can only lament the decision of the University of London to withdraw from the British Library Lending Division's cooperative microfilming scheme in 1981, since London continues to be a major international center for graduate level research in Asian Studies.

The situation in Australia, India, Japan and the Philippines as well as in such European nations as France, Italy, Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary and Czechoslovakia is also less than satisfactory. Those countries lack effective national agencies to coordinate the reproduction, sale and distribution of most university theses; and efforts by interested scholars to obtain copies of their dissertations can be frustrating and at times fruitless.[13] Unless they appear in a published edition, Soviet dissertations are even more inaccessible despite the existence of an effective system of bibliographical control. Even Russian scholars must obtain special permission in order to read the copies of Soviet dissertations that have been deposited at the Lenin State Library in Moscow.[14]

Librarians are decidedly in a good position to publicize the existence and the availability of individual dissertations, to assist various individuals

in getting ahold of copies of requested theses, and to lobby for and promote universal access to doctoral dissertations. First of all, by constantly stressing the importance as well as the widespread benefits of having access to completed doctoral dissertations everywhere, they can focus more attention on this issue among those university libraries which neither participate in a cooperative dissertation microfilming service nor maintain in-house microfilming programs for filming all of their own dissertations.[15] So long as universities continue to subscribe to the belief that the publication and dissemination of a scholar's research findings is one of the most fundamental elements of modern scholarship, then the academic and library worlds must work together in eliminating all of the barriers which limit access to a considerable body of substantive research.

Second, more should be done on a cooperative basis in the West to develop collections of Asia-related dissertations at institutional libraries affiliated with major area studies centers. With the support of members of the Burma Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies, for example, the new national Center for Burma Studies at Northern Illinois University (in DeKalb) should work with its university library to establish a comprehensive collection of worldwide thesis research about Burma which would serve an entire community of scholars in North America. The SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies) and India Office Libraries in London, England should also consider jointly setting up a comparable collection on behalf of the European academic community. The recent publication of Shulman's guide to seven hundred dissertations about Burma should immeasurably help in such an undertaking, and the costs of keeping such specialized collections up-to-date should be reasonable. Similarly, just as the Japan Foundation in Tokyo has allocated some of its resources to building up a collection of Western-language theses on Japan for use at its facilities in Tokyo, perhaps some European center for Japanese

Studies could also be helped to establish a library of Japan-related dissertations for use by scholars throughout Europe. In all cases, of course, it is imperative that these special collections be regarded from the outset as a shared resource. The librarians in charge of them should actively serve the needs of all interested users regardless of their institutional affiliations or academic backgrounds.

Within Asia itself, more should be done under the auspices of various national libraries to establish resource centers that actively acquire foreign dissertations and other types of scholarly writings dealing with their respective countries. These centers might be comparable in nature to the Resource and Information Center for Chinese Studies at the National Central Library in Taipei, which is responsible for a large and growing collection of doctoral dissertations pertaining to China. Such special collections would facilitate local access to an important body of scholarship undertaken in Australia, Europe and North America. They would thereby address some of the concerns expressed by local scholars who have been unable to read what some Westerners have written about their countries following the conclusion of extensive field research. The librarians responsible for securing copies of less readily available theses should be able to expect the cooperation of their foreign colleagues. Furthermore, they should be prepared to commit themselves to disseminating up-to-date information about their holdings both at home and abroad.

For such centers to operate efficiently and effectively, it is important that they have access to a timely, comprehensive source of bibliographic information about the thesis literature dealing with Asia. The annual issues of the journal *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia* presently fulfill part of this need. Since 1983, when the Association for Asian Studies decided to allocate additional funding for this publication and mandated its editor to offer more

comprehensive coverage for recently completed thesis research, the number of entries within each new issue has substantially increased.[16] If special arrangements could be worked out by the editor of this journal and the librarians in charge of such resource centers to share bibliographical information on a frequent basis, the benefits accruing to the world of scholarship would be considerable. The speedy completion and publication of comprehensive, retrospective bibliographies of American and European doctoral dissertations covering the countries of South and Southeast Asia is also essential for in-depth coverage at these centers of the thesis research undertaken in the past. Finally, in order to insure that doctoral dissertations submitted to universities in Asia come under full bibliographical control, each new generation of librarians within those countries must continue to compile the types of bibliographies that have been done by such individuals and organizations as Fan Kok-Sim in Malaysia, Catalina A. Nemenzo in the Philippines, and the Inter-University Board of India and Ceylon.[17]

More and more references to doctoral dissertations on Asian subjects are appearing these days within the footnotes and bibliographies of published monographs and journal articles. In part, this is a result of the enhanced bibliographical controls for thesis research and of the increasingly widespread availability of the dissertations themselves. At times the dissertations are being used because they constitute the most extensive Western-language explorations available of narrowly focused yet academically significant topics. On other occasions, it is because they make interesting use of new conceptual frameworks or offer compelling evidence for new assessments of particular subjects. It is clear that the doctoral dissertation as a form of academic scholarship has had a significant impact on the advancement of knowledge about Asia in the West and that it will play an important role in the field of Asian Studies for the foreseeable future. Nevertheless, in too many ways, these

same dissertations remain an underutilized resource on account of continuing delays in the dissemination of information about them and on account of the inability of scholars to gain access to many of them in as routine a manner as they can for monographs and periodicals. The extent to which the academic and library worlds will succeed in addressing these challenges remains to be seen.

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NOTES

1. John Whitney Hall, *Tanuma Okitsugu (1719-1788): Forerunner of Modern Japan* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1955); Hugh Tinker, *The Foundations of Local Self-Government in India, Pakistan, and Burma* (London: Athlone, 1954); Clifford Geertz, *Modjokuto: Religion in Java* (Cambridge, Mass.: Center for International Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1958); and Rhoads Murphey, *Shanghai, Key to Modern China* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1953).

2. Carol Newman Gluck, *Japan's Modern Myths: Ideology in the Late Meiji Period* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1985); Mary Backus Rankin, *Early Chinese Revolutionnaries: Radical Intellectuals in Shanghai and Chekiang, 1902-1911* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1971); Norman G. Owen, *Prosperity without Progress: Manila Hemp and Material Life in the Colonial Philippines* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984); David Dean Shulman, *Tamil Temple Myths: Sacrifice and Divine Marriage in the South Indian Śaiva Tradition* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1980); and Wendy Doniger O'Flaherty, *The Origins of Evil in Hindu Mythology* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976).

3. Association for Asian Studies, Inc., *Bibliography of Asian Studies* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: Association for Asian Studies, annual); Maureen L.P. Patterson, *South Asian Civilizations: A Bibliographic Synthesis* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981); Laurence G. Thompson, *Chinese Religion in Western Languages: A Comprehensive and Classified Bibliography of Publications in English, French, and German through 1980* (Tucson: Published for the Association for Asian Studies by the University of Arizona Press, 1985); and *Studies on Korea: A Scholar's Guide*, edited by Han-Kyo Kim (Honolulu: University Press of Hawaii, 1980).

4. Curtis W. Stucki, *American Doctoral Dissertations on Asia* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Southeast Asia Program, Department of Far Eastern Studies, Cornell University, 1959) and subsequent editions published in 1963 and 1968; Barry C. Bloomfield, *Theses on Asia Accepted by Universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland, 1877-1964* (London: Cass, 1967); and Klaus L. Janert, *Verzeichnis indienkundlicher Hochschulschriften: Deutschland - Österreich - Schweiz* [Register of University Writings Relating to India: Germany, Austria, Switzerland] (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1961).

5. Lian The and Paul W. van der Veur, *Treasures and Trivia: Doctoral Dissertations on Southeast Asia Accepted by Universities in the United States* (Athens: Southeast Asia Program, Center for International Studies, Ohio University, 1968); and D. R. and Bhanu D. Sardesai, *Theses and Dissertations on Southeast Asia: An International Bibliography in Social Sciences, Education, Fine Arts* (Zug, Switzerland: Inter Documentation Company, 1970).

6. It should be noted that the Association for Asian Studies does not have any ties with University Microfilms International, the publisher of *Dissertation Abstracts International* and currently the source of copies of most American dissertations about Asia, even though both are located in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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7. Frank Joseph Shulman, *Japan and Korea: An Annotated Bibliography of Doctoral Dissertations in Western Languages, 1877-1969* (Chicago: American Library Association; London: Frank Cass, 1970); Shulman, *Doctoral Dissertations on Japan and on Korea, 1969-1979: An Annotated Bibliography of Studies in Western Languages* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982); Leonard H.D. Gordon and Frank Joseph Shulman, *Doctoral Dissertations on China: A Bibliography of Studies in Western Languages, 1945-1970* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1972); Shulman, *Doctoral Dissertations on China, 1971-1975: A Bibliography of Studies in Western Languages* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982); and Shulman, *Doctoral Dissertations on China and Inner Asia, 1976-1984: A Bibliography of Studies in Western Languages* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, forthcoming).

8. Frank Joseph Shulman, *Doctoral Dissertations on South Asia, 1966-1970: An Annotated Bibliography Covering North America, Europe, and Australia* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, University of Michigan, 1971); Shulman, "Doctoral Research on Malaya and Malaysia, 1895-1977: A Comprehensive Bibliography and Statistical Overview," in *Malaysian Studies: Present Knowledge and Research Trends*, edited by John A. Lent (DeKalb, Ill.: Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Northern Illinois University, 1979): 250-436; and Shulman, *Burma: An Annotated Bibliographical Guide to International Doctoral Dissertation Research, 1898-1985* (Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1986).

9. For an overview of the entire bibliographical system which Shulman has sought to create, see his "Bibliographical Controls for Completed Doctoral Dissertation Research in Asian Studies with Particular Focus on Historical Scholarship: Some Recent Accomplishments and Current Endeavors," in *International Association of Orientalist Librarians Bulletin*, nos.24-25 (1984): 4-11, and (without footnotes) in *Han-hsüeh yen-chiu t'ung-hsün = Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* (Taipei) 4, no.3 (whole no.15) (Sept. 1985): 155-58.

10. For particulars, see D. H. Borchardt and J. D. Thawley, *Guide to the Availability of Theses* (München: K.G. Saur, 1981).

11. For details, see Frank Joseph Shulman, "Treasures and Trivia: The Universe of Microfilmed Dissertations on East Asia at the Library of Congress," in Association for Asian Studies, Inc., *Committee on East Asian Libraries Bulletin*, no.80 (Fall 1986) (in press).

12. It should be noted that every request for a copy of a British thesis which is submitted to the British Library Lending Division must be accompanied by a special copyright declaration form signed by the requesting individual or institution. For particulars about the availability of British dissertations, see the section entitled "Availability of Theses" in the latest volume of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (ASLIB)'s *Index to Theses Accepted for Higher Degrees by the Universities of Great Britain and Ireland and the Council for National Academic Awards* (London; published semiannually).

13. It should be noted that some dissertations accepted by French universities for the degree of Doctorat d'Etat are printed in photo-offset editions at the Université de Lille and that there is a fichier central des thèses at Nanterre, France. In Manila, the National Library of the Philippines

seeks to acquire as many newly completed Philippine theses as it can for its own collection, and it lists these in the annual volumes of the *Philippine National Bibliography*. Unfortunately, the National Library's holdings appear to be somewhat incomplete.

14. See Patricia Polansky's statement about the availability of Soviet theses in Frank Joseph Shulman, *Doctoral Dissertations on Japan and on Korea, 1969-1979: An Annotated Bibliography of Studies in Western Languages* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1982): 419-20; and in Shulman, *Burma: An Annotated Bibliographical Guide to International Doctoral Dissertation Research, 1898-1985* (Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1986): 216-17.

15. An excellent example of an in-house microfilming program is the long-established program of the University of Chicago Library's Photoduplication Department, which regularly films all newly completed Chicago theses and periodically lists them in a widely distributed circular.

16. Insofar as possible, the current issues of *Doctoral Dissertations on Asia* seek to list all of the Western-language dissertations on Asian subjects accepted by institutions outside of South Asia since January 1, 1980. No effort has been made, however, to go back and include within the expanded issues of this journal the entries for the thousands of dissertations completed during the 1970s that could not be published within earlier issues of the journal owing to limitations of space in years past.

17. Fan Kok-Sim, *Dissertation Materials in the University of Malaya Library*, Rev. ed. (Kuala Lumpur: University of Malaya Library, 1977); Catalina A. Nemenzo, *Graduate Theses in Philippine Universities and Colleges, 1908-1969* (Manila: Philippine Center for Advanced Studies, University of the Philippines System, 1974); and Inter-University Board of India and Ceylon, *Bibliography of Doctoral Dissertations Accepted by Indian Universities, 1857-1970* (New Delhi, 1972-1975).

IFLA GENERAL CONFERENCE, Tokyo, Japan

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Bibliographical Developments in Malaysia with special reference to the National Library.

by

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Malaysia, S.E. Asia.

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Bibliographical Developments in Malaysia with special reference to the National Library.*

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Introduction

This paper attempts briefly to highlight bibliographic developments in Malaysia with special reference to the National Library. In general terms, bibliographic activity in Malaysia, despite increasing changes particularly in relation to automation, still tends to be initiated and undertaken largely by institutions, either in response to real or perceived needs, culminating ultimately in published or unpublished lists, catalogues, bibliographies or indexes. Commercial enterprises have not ventured into the field up to the present time.

Collection of the National Literature

The national literature referred to here is seen in its widest context to cover all library material irrespective of form, published or produced in Malaysia. Legal Deposit of library material at the present time is effected by the *Preservation of Books Act, 1966*. The existing Act is 'book' oriented and covers only printed materials. The Act makes no provision for preservation, conservation or bibliographic record of the material received. Despite this, the material received is preserved and the National Bibliography published. Under provisions of the Act, 2 copies of all 'books' published have to be deposited at the National Library while 8 other institutions have been designated as 'demand depositories', i.e. they can demand for the deposit of 1 copy, provided such demand was made within 1 year of publication. Because of its many limitations, the *Preservation of Books Act, 1966* is being superceded by

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an entirely new Bill entitled the *Deposit of Library Materials, Act 1986* which has passed its first reading in Parliament. The new Bill is broader in scope. It covers both printed and non-printed library material (e.g. tape, film etc.), with the National Library designated as the sole depository. The number of copies to be deposited is increased to 5 (for printed material) and 2 (for non-printed material).

National Bibliographic Services

National Bibliographic Services provided at the present time by the National Library of Malaysia include the *Malaysian National Bibliography* (quarterly with annual cumulations), the *Malaysian Periodicals Index* (six monthly), the *Malaysian Newspaper Index* (quarterly) and the *Malaysian Conference Index* (annual). All these services are provided as printed publications most of which are available on a subscription basis. Judging from sales figures however, none of these services appear to be taken full advantage of at the national level- even less at the international level. Part of the reason for this is poor promotion and marketing but more serious is the fact that the services tend to be one or two years behind time. This in turn is the result of financial and manpower constraints.

Some effort has been made in recent years to cope with the problem of currency through computerized support. This has been attempted in an institutional environment where computer hardware was not provided and where professional and sub-professional staff were unfamiliar with computerized systems.

The *Malaysian Newspaper Index (MNI)* the most labour intensive of national bibliographic services was the first to be produced using a micro computer (TRS 80) which was purchased together with a software package tailor-made for the same purpose by the vendor. The micro computer was only used as a processing aid

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in order to produce a print-out for purposes of producing the printed publication.

Subsequently under an aid programme with Hewlett Packard and with MINISIS software provided by IDRC(International Development Research Centre), steps were taken to produce the *Malaysian Periodicals Index* (MPI) on the HP 3000. CPU support was provided at HP's premises without charge with terminals located at the National Library. Trial outputs have been satisfactory.

At the same time, necessary measures were also taken to produce the *Malaysian National Bibliography* (MNB) as an off-shoot of the MALMARC (Malaysian MARC) project, based at and coordinated by the Universiti Sains Malaysia. Recent issues of the MNB have been computer generated.

While computerized support was aimed at improving the currency of national bibliographic services, it was also perceived as providing opportunities for professional staff of the National Library to obtain greater exposure and develop greater competency in the management of computerized systems. While the latter objective is increasingly being realized, the problem of achieving currency still remains remote. The problem again stems from inadequate staffing support.

National Bibliographic Data Base

Although the setting up of the National Bibliographic Data Base has come under increasing consideration in recent years, the nucleus of the Data Base was in fact developed in the late seventies. I refer here to the MALMARC project which has been well documented in previous papers. The MALMARC System is essentially a shared cataloguing system based on the UK and LC MARC tapes. Records from participating institutions are processed in batch-mode and the system produces COMFICHE catalogues as well as printed accession lists tailored to institutional requirements.

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On-line access to the MALMARC Data Base however is not available to participating institutions at the present time. Since the MALMARC Data Base is located in Penang (about 230 miles from the Federal Capital), use of the system has been limited.

The Universiti Sains Malaysia which has functioned as the coordinating centre from the very inception of the project is keen to have the MALMARC system transferred to the National Library. This has not been possible because the National Library does not have its own in-house computer support facilities including staffing with the capacity to maintain and develop the system.

A UNESCO Consultancy Mission undertaken in November, 1984 by Michael Sherwood studied the overall computerized needs of the National Library and indicated the feasibility of transferring the MALMARC System to the National Library. A second mission is scheduled in November 1986 to recommend hardware and software support required and to draw up detailed specifications and tender documents. Funding for the installation of a main-frame computer within the National Library has been approved under the Fifth Malaysia Plan.

In the meantime, other options are being considered. Particularly important is the possibility of a Bureau Service operating the MALMARC system using URICA software and providing on-line access to participating institutions. The entire system is to be maintained within the National Library with Bureau charges comparable to charges presently paid for the maintenance of the MALMARC system. The MALMARC Consortium is expected to consider a working paper on the proposed system at the end of August.

Legislative Provisions

Perhaps of far greater significance are the legislative provisions which have been made in a new Bill entitled the *National Library (Amendment) Act 1986* which has already passed its first reading in Parliament.

These provisions are to establish within the National Library:

(a) the National Bibliographic Centre for the maintenance of the national bibliographic network, the national bibliographic data base and the provision of national bibliographic and documentation services.

(b) the National Depository for the storage and conservation of library resources received.

(c) the National Centre for Malay manuscripts for the acquisition, documentation and use of Malay manuscripts.

Also of significance in the same Bill is the provision of facilities within the National Library to enable the National Library to function as:

(a) the national focal point for the national information system.

(b) the national centre for the lending and exchange of library resources in order to promote the national and universal availability of publications.

Further enhancing the bibliographic function of the National Library is the provision which has been made in the *Deposit of Library Material Act 1986*. The specific provision referred to here is the establishment of the National Depository, whose objectives include the creation of:

"standard bibliographic record of library material published in Malaysia"

In this regard, it may be useful to point out that the interpretation of terms given in the Bill includes the term "library

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material" which has been defined as:

> "any form of printed, graphic, audio, electronic or other media, on or in which information is written, recorded, stored, displayed or produced and is categorised for purposes of this Act into:
>
> (i) printed library material including books, serials, maps, charts and posters
>
> (ii) non-printed library material including cinematograph films, microforms, phono records, video and audio recordings and other electronic media".

Legislative provisions referred to in this paper clearly indicate Government recognition of the bibliographic function of the National Library and provide a framework for networking, the development of a national bibliographic data base as well as national bibliographic services. It is but a matter of time before the MALMARC data base is absorbed within the Malaysian Bibliographic Network.

Telecommunications Support

The creation of bibliogrpahic databases and networking is greatly dependent on telecommunications infrastructure provisions in the country. In the past due to various constraints, Telecoms concentrated on its 'bread and butter services' - telephone, telegraph and telex - these being its major revenue earners. As a result, only point to point voice grade circuits were provided. These had to be upgraded on a leased line basis for data transmission purposes. However in the last few years, with the increasing trend towards computerization and on-line operations, Telecoms has introduced the Malaysian Packet Switched Public Data Network called MAYPAC. MAYPAC is designed mainly for data communication between computers and data terminals within Malaysia as well as data communication with other countries. The interfaces

and protocols for access to MAYPAC are based on CCITT X.25 recommendations. MAYPAC is accessed by two main methods:

(1) dedicated access using voice grade circuits operating at speeds of 300, 1200, 2400, 4800 and 9600 bps.

(2) dial-up access over the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) using voice grade circuits at 300 and 1200 bps.

International Bibliographic Data Bases

With the establishment of MAYPAC as well as dial-up facilities, a number of libraries, including the National Library and some of the university libraries have become MAYPAC subscribers as a result of which they are able to access international data bases such as Dialog. Within the National Library, international data base access and search is provided free of charge for the first six months but will be charged for subsequently. Access charges have not been finalized yet. Provision for charges to be levied for information services rendered have been incorporated in the *National Library (Amendment) Act 1986*. It is likely that once data base search services are extended to users, subscriptions to printed products may be terminated.

Another aspect of international data base maintenance is the question of national data input. Some relevant data bases in this respect which receive input from Malaysia and other South East Asian countries include AGRIS, INIS and ISDS. There are possibly several others. Inputs to AGRIS and ISDS for example are effected by designated national and regional centres. While arrangements in respect of AGRIS are reasonable enough, provisions in respect of ISDS should be reviewed since countries have to contribute towards the support of the ISDS International Center. It appears that in South East Asia the ISDS data base is little used. Countries input serials data (key title and ISSN), in respect of a large number of 'mushroom'

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publications which often cease publication after one or two issues. The ISSN is invariably never printed on the publication itself. It would seem that the unnecessary input of ephemeral serials into ISDS only increases maintenance costs, staffing etc. at National Centers as well as the International Centre. National Bibliographic Services also create authoritative bibliographic records for serials published in their countries. This duplicate recording is highly wasteful. This is further compounded by the fact that serials records submitted for the ISDS Data Base have to be prepared in accordance with the ISDS Manual and Guidelines. An independent review and assessment of ISDS would be highly desirable.

Bibliographic Standards

If bibliographic activity undertaken independently, either by individuals or institutions, is to be taken full advantage of, particularly in the light of developments in respect of the national bibliographic data base and the national bibliographic network, then it will be necessary to work towards the adoption of common bibliographic standards.

At the present time bibliographic standards which are fairly widely adopted are the AACR 11, while ISBD application is largely confined to the National Library and specifically to the *Malaysian National Bibliography*.

Standards for Bibliographical Compilation, published by BILCO (Standing Committee for Bibliography and Library Cooperation of the Library Association of Singapore and the Malaysian Library Association) have not been widely adopted and even when adopted, it is often with modifications. In view of the provisions in the Amendment Bill referred to earlier, the National Library will have to take necessary measures to develop bibliographic standards more widely acceptable and actively promote adoption and adherence to these standards.

Bibliographic Cooperation

While the MALMARC data base is the result of bibliographic cooperation between the National Library and several university libraries in Malaysia, it was facilitated, particularly at the Pilot Project stage by PERPUN - an acronym for the Standing Conference of University Libraries and the National Library. However when the project moved into an operational phase, cooperation and decision making was effected by the MALMARC consortium, which comprised only of participating institutions. PERPUN however continued to be involved in bibliographical cooperation and was responsible for the creation of PERPUNET - which is a union catalogue of serials in the country. PERPUNET, like MALMARC is maintained by Universiti Sains Malaysia. Neither of these data bases however are accessible on-line at present. PERPUNET has also not been made available in printed or COMFICHE form.

Predating PERPUN by nearly a decade was the Joint Standing Committee on Library Cooperation and Bibliographical Services (JSCLCBS) of the Library Association of Singapore and the Malaysian Library Association. JSCLCBS has been renamed BILCO (Bibliography and Library Cooperation) with national BILCO Committees operating in each country respectively. While JSCLCBS initiated many of the early developments on national bibliographic services in Malaysia and Singapore, the rapid developments in both countries resulted in BILCO functioning more as a forum for reporting on bibliographical and other projects undertaken by individual institutions. While the National Libraries in both countries have traditionally provided the chairperson of the national JSCLCBS/BILCO committees, that situation has changed over the period 1984 - 1986. While the national libraries continue to be represented on BILCO, committee chairmen are now drawn from the wider profession - usually the universities. In Malaysia proposals for the dissolution of BILCO and for the National Library to form a national committee for Bibliography were made. This

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however was not fully supported either within the professional association or the National Library.

Earlier, attempts had been made by BILCO to set up a standing committee on library automation called SCOLA. SCOLA however never got off the ground and was dissolved. SCOLA Singapore was in fact set up but was later dissolved.

In Malaysia the lacunac was filled by a National Committee on Data Processing for Libraries (NCDPL) which was set up within the National Library with representation from academic, special, public and school libraries. NCDPL has completed for publication a Directory of Data Bases available within the country. It is currently working on guidelines for the purchase of micro computers for libraries.

Conclusion

There is still much to be done. Fortunately there is a high sense of motivation and purpose among our professionals and a willingness to cooperate towards the realization of clearly defined objectives. Leadership and direction however will need to be sustained if the present pace of developments is to be maintained. Ultimately, all this must lead to improved access to the widening store of human knowledge and wisdom and hopefully to better and better tomorrows.